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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you heed DEQ's advice to stay out of the water whenever it issues red flag notices?

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INSIDE

Glass Recall
Close to a thousand "Shrek" glasses sold by McDonald's stores on Saipan are now subject of a recall.

LOCAL...Page 7

Freak Storm
A tornado unleashes a "war zone" of destruction in northwest Ohio.

NATION...Page 14

360 Show
CNMI artist Greg Elliott is ready to launch his one-man show, 'Views from the 360.'

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Trial run for new Saipan-Tinian ferry

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A weekly passenger ferry service for Tinian will be available starting this Friday to help Tinian residents cope with the loss of *Tinian Express*, which suspended operations for six months beginning March.

Passenger vessel *Super Emerald*, owned by Norman Tenorio, will be conducting a monthlong trial run every Friday between the two islands, with the Saipan-Tinian leg scheduled at 1pm and the Tinian-Saipan service at 3pm. The service will start on June 11 and can accommodate up to 45 passengers per trip.

According to Capt. Paul Cruz, *Super Emerald* has been in existence way before *Tinian Express* started its service.

See FERRY on Page 4

Nicole M. Mayerhauser, left, of the U.S. Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis, gestures as she answers questions from CNMI lawmakers on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon, about the islands' first ever gross domestic product report covering 2002 and 2007. Looking on are, from left, BEA's Brian C. Moyer, Office of Insular Affairs regional economist Dr. Wali M. Osman, and CNMI Commerce's Central Statistics Division director Ivan A. Blanco.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

2008, 2009 GDP estimates for NMI out in spring 2011

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After receiving in May this year the first ever federal report on the islands' gross domestic product, the CNMI is expected to receive both the 2008 and 2009 GDP estimates in the spring of 2011.

Officials from the U.S. Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis said this yesterday, when they made a formal presentation to members of the 17th Legislature about the 2002-2007 GDP data, which showed

See GDP on Page 4

New utility rates take effect this month

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has formally approved new rates for water and wastewater services effective June 21, with a requirement for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to install accurate water meters islandwide before the end of the year.

The commission also approved an aggregate levelized energy adjustment clause rate of $0.24446 per kWh

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DUE TO DELAYS IN MANUFACTURING, SHIPPING

PSS seniors won't get laptops this year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Over 600 seniors who were supposed to get one laptop each under the Public School System's One Laptop Per Child Project will be graduating from high school without benefiting from the program.

This came about because the 5,200 laptops that were ordered for the program won't be delivered until after the graduation of the seniors' class, said PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh.

"They [laptops] haven't arrived yet so that would be for next school year. The hope was to have it for them this school

See LAPTOPS on Page 4

33 govt officials face daily fine of $10. PAGE 2
US Maritime Administration backs NMI ship disposal program. PAGE 6

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Local

FOR MISSING FINANCIAL REPORT DEADLINE

33 govt officials face daily fine of $10

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Thirty-three government officials are now facing a $10 fine for every single day that they fail to file a statement of financial interest for calendar year 2009 by the final May 31 deadline, the Office of the Public Auditor told *Saipan Tribune.*

They represent 8 percent of the 384 government officials that the Department of Finance certified as required to file a statement of financial interest for 2009.

Of the 384 certified individuals, 274 filed their financial statement with OPA on or before the May 1st initial deadline. OPA received 77 more financial statements after the initial deadline. The final deadline was May 31.

Wilma Atalig, analyst at OPA's Ethics and Compliance Unit, said the remaining 33 individuals have yet to file their financial statement.

"OPA strongly urges all the 33 individuals required to file a statement to please do so. Failure to file a properly completed and verified statement is subject to a civil penalty of not more than $10 per day for periods of delinquency," Atalig said in an e-mail response to *Saipan Tribune* questions.

Atalig said "OPA has no authority to make any exceptions to the filing requirements of the Act."

Under 1 CMC §8511 of the Government Ethics Code Act, all elected and appointed CNMI officials, judicial officers, and executive department heads or directors are required to file a statement of financial interest.

For officials who have yet to file their statement of financial interest, free notary service is available at OPA.

The statement of financial interest includes government officials' income, and financial interests in real estate, among other things.

But unlike many other jurisdictions, CNMI law does not make public financial statements. Thus, the assets and liabilities of elected officials are not readily available for public inspection. OPA can only release the documents with consent from the filer.

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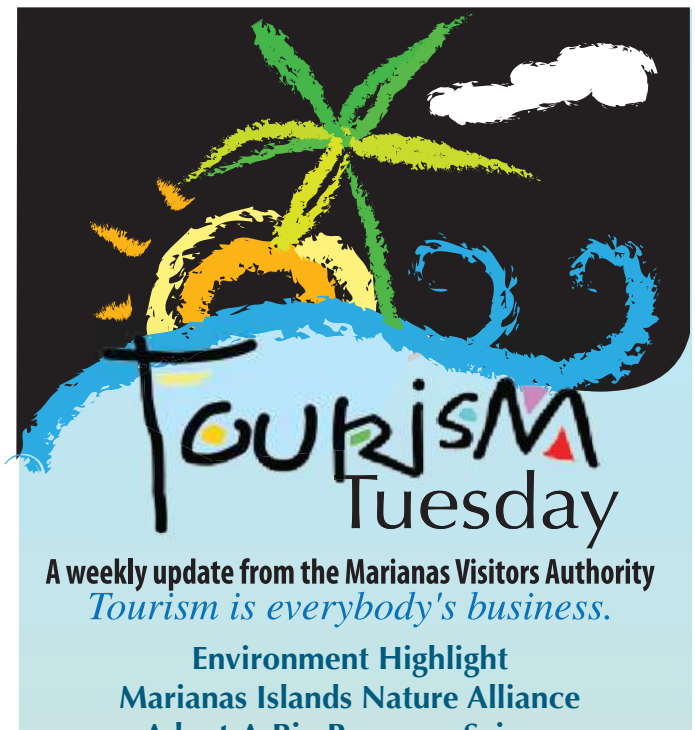

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Environment Highlight

Marianas Islands Nature Alliance Adopt-A-Bin Program, Saipan

Have you noticed? Many of Saipan's most popular beach and picnic spots now have a BLUE bin and GREEN bin! These bins are the result of Marianas Islands Nature Alliance's (MINA) Adopt-A-Bin Program supported by Saipan businesses and non-profit organizations. Eight locations have been adopted with more "adoptions" in the works.

BLUE bins are for MIXED WASTE and the GREEN bins are for RECYCLABLES. Each bin is clearly marked for easy separation, which helps reduce our island's total solid waste stream by putting plastics, glass and metal in the GREEN bin for recycling. These bins are placed at picnic sites near our most popular beaches to help encourage residents and visitors alike to keep the trash out of the ocean.

To promote the use of the bins and proper waste disposal, MINA is hard at work raising community and visitor awareness about the harm posed by marine debris and what everyone can do to prevent contributing to it. MINA volunteers are giving classroom presentations at schools, deputizing Litter Patrol officers, and manning booths at the Sabalu and Thursday night markets to spread the word. "It is our hope that people will be convinced to take some simple steps to lessen this growing problem for our oceans," said Agnes Sablan, MINA volunteer.

Marine debris—trash that ends up in the ocean—is a major threat to our global environment. Marine debris pollutes our shores and surrounding waters, posing a significant risk to marine life from entanglement, and/or ingestion and smothering. Our tourism depends on the natural beauty of our environment. By picking up our trash, disposing of it properly and adopting recycling habits, we can all contribute to the health, safety and beauty of our islands. We can share our pride with those who visit our islands by using and encouraging others to use the trash and recycle bins around the island.

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HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

'Popular initiative rather than legislation on pot legalization'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House Natural Resources Committee is not recommending the passage of a bill legalizing marijuana use for medicinal and other purposes in the CNMI, saying the matter can better be addressed through a popular initiative rather than through legislation.

The committee report on House Bill 17-47, introduced by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) is expected to be in the next House session's agenda.

The eight-member committee, chaired by Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), held public hearings on the bill on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Santos said yesterday that the consensus is to recommend placing the question on whether to legalize marijuana use directly before voters by way of popular initiative.

She cautioned, however, that the full House membership may go the opposite route even though the committee recommendation is not to pass the bill as it is currently drafted.

"But I hope they would agree to the committee recommendation," she added.

Torres, in an overseas call yesterday afternoon, said he has yet to sign off on the standing committee report because he is still off-island. But he said he will look into the possibility of introducing a measure to put the question before the voters in this November's ballot, through a popular initiative.

Torres is the first lawmaker to introduce a bill seeking to legalize marijuana use in the CNMI.

Rep. Trenton B. Conner (R-Tinian), one of the committee members, also said the voters should be given an opportunity to decide on the matter of legalizing marijuana use.

"We feel that it's not for the Legislature to decide whether to legalize marijuana or not. We prefer people to decide on the matter on their own through popular initiative," Conner told *Saipan Tribune.*

Conner said the committee also considered the millions of dollars in federal funding that the CNMI may lose if it allows marijuana use to be legalized in the Commonwealth.

He cited the concern of the Department of Public Health, which may lose over $10 million in federal grants should the bill becomes law. Under federal law, marijuana remains a Schedule I drug and is illegal to use and possess.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and other community members expressed opposition to Torres's bill, but there are also others who supported it during the public hearings, said Santos and Conner.

But the number of people who attended the public hearings on the bill was also too few to represent the sentiment of the public, they said.

Santos also said that there may be an amendment to the bill, but this has not been formalized yet.

Torres's bill seeks to legalize marijuana not only for medicinal use, but also to lessen alleged criminal activities related to marijuana planting and/or selling.

A dozen fires hit Saipan over weekend

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

True to the recent warning of the National Weather Service in Guam about severe grass fire hitting the CNMI, a dozen grass fires broke out across Saipan this past weekend.

Firefighters were busy responding to bush fires on island on Saturday and Sunday.

The Division of Fire disclosed that more grass fires occurred on Saturday, while eight others happened on Sunday.

No one was reported injured in those fires.

Fire debris and ash from burned grass coated parts of San Jose Saturday night.

The Division of Fire is urging all citizens to exercise caution when lighting fires outdoors at this time.

NWS recently warned that severe grass fire may hit the CNMI in the next few weeks due to drought conditions present in the Marianas region.

The NWS said the El Niño phenomenon is extending the Marianas dry season into June or July and that one additional month with total rainfall below two inches could still occur on Saipan and Guam.

"The CNMI and especially Saipan should continue to implement water conservation measures," NWS said.

The agency said fire danger will increase and reduced fresh water supplies could make fire fighting difficult.

Although it rained on Saipan yesterday afternoon, NWS said June could have rainfall totals of only two inches or less for Tinian, Saipan, Rota, and Guam.

"More normal rainfall should hopefully return in late June or early July for Guam and Rota and by late July for Saipan and Tinian," the weather agency said.

Doromal, Syed question legality of Labor's regulations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal and United Workers Movement-NMI president Raby Syed questioned yesterday the legality of the CNMI Department of Labor's amended employment regulations that came into effect on June 1.

In her Unheard No More blog, Doromal described Public Law 17-1 as a blatant violation of U.S. law. The new regulations requires foreign workers to, among other things, register every year or face a fine of $500, jail time, or both.

Doromal pointed out that the U.S. Department of Justice is likely to challenge the local law in federal court because it preempts the federalization law.

Syed believes that Labor's new regulations are illegal and this will again be another legal tussle between the federal and the CNMI governments.

"We are urging federal agencies like the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of the Interior to come up with a concrete statement regarding this issue. That will help the alien workers get out of confusion and fear," he said.

Doromal said the problem is that the CNMI government no longer has authority over immigration and labor activities.

Doromal said, P.L. 17-1 also requires a "floating benchmark" for hiring residents in a blatant violation of U.S. law.

"Additionally, the arrogant CNMI Department of Labor has defied federal law and mocked statements by federal officials, stating that the local agency can revoke umbrella permits. Federal officials have made it clear that they [Labor] do not have that authority," she said.

"Let's see if this defiant bunch of power grabbers has the money to enforce their law. They never enforced other labor law and instead allowed thousands of foreign workers to be cheated by unscrupulous employers," Doromal said.

She added that P.L. 17-1 will only help "feed the hungry CNMI coffers."

Syed said that what they understand right now is that after the federalization law took effect Nov. 28, 2009, all alien workers fell under federal jurisdiction.

"That's what we learned from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and also from Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony M. Babauta," he said.

Syed said that Labor's regulations will not affect the alien workers in either way because it will become a legal issue between the local and federal governments.

He encouraged alien workers to go to the Ombudsman's Office and ask for assistance if they have concerns about the Labor regulations.

Since alien workers are now under the U.S. system, Syed said that Labor has no more jurisdiction over umbrella permits and has no authority to revoke such permits.

"Now we are waiting to see how the local Department of Labor will enforce the regulations under this federal system," he added.

Under the newly amended regulations, every alien who remains in the CNMI longer than 90 days shall be required to register annually and to comply with an ID system.

Failure to comply with the alien registration and ID system shall result in a misdemeanor and upon conviction, shall be punished by jail for up to 90 days, or a fine of up to $500 or both.

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Jurors in human smuggling case start deliberation

Jurors began deliberations yesterday in the case of four Chinese nationals who are on trial for allegedly trying to sneak into Guam from Rota using two inflatable boats.

The prosecution and the defense completed their closing arguments yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned from the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the jurors were still deliberating late yesterday afternoon.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kirk Schuler and Eric O'Malley represented the U.S. government.

Defense lawyers Michael Dotts, G. Anthony Long, Bruce Berline, and Mark Hanson are representing the four defendants: Shixu Huang, Lihua Yi, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhang.

The fifth defendant, Jingfan Zhang, entered a plea agreement with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty.

Jingfan Zhang earlier testified that their intent to proceed to Guam on board two inflatable boats from Rota was to seek asylum and find jobs.

Law enforcement personnel pursued and intercepted the boats on Jan. 30, 2010, according to Isra D. Harahap, a special agent with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

GDP

From Page 1

a 4.2 percent average annual decline.

GDP represents the total value of goods and services produced by a country or territory.

Local lawmakers, including Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), asked the visiting federal officials whether the remittances by foreign workers in the CNMI can be made part of future reports.

Unknown to some lawmakers, the CNMI Department of Commerce's quarterly economic indicators report has always included the quarterly and yearly remittances although the department has been delayed in the release of the report since early 2009.

In the first quarter of 2009, for example, total remittances reached only $16 million, a $4.8 million drop from the same period in 2008. Annual remittances dropped steadily in recent years, mainly due to the departure of foreign garment workers and other alien workers in other types of businesses. In 2005, remittances totaled $112.6 million, and dropped to $102.2 million in 2006, before falling to $93.6 million in 2007 and to $76.8 million in 2008.

Ivan A. Blanco, director of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, told lawmakers yesterday that the reports are expected to be released this week.

On May 5, BEA released estimates of total GDP for the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The May federal report confirmed what everybody already knew: the CNMI economy, as well as its population, had been shrinking. The report also highlighted an unpleasant fact: Of the four U.S. territories, it was only the CNMI that experienced an economic contraction.

"The estimates for the CNMI showed that from 2002 to 2007, real GDP—GDP adjusted to remove price changes—decreased at an average annual rate of 4.2 percent. For comparison, the average annual growth rate for the United States (excluding territories) was 2.8 percent over this period," BEA said.

Yesterday, Nicole M. Mayerhauser, chief of BEA's Industry Sector Division, and Brian C. Moyer, associate director for BEA's Industry Accounts, along with Interior regional economist Dr. Wali M. Osman, presented data to supplement the GDP report.

They presented estimates for the major components of GDP, including consumer spending, private fixed investment, net exports, and government spending, as well as estimates of the major components of gross domestic income.

"The estimates of the major components of GDP highlight the impact that the garment manufacturing and tourism industries had on CNMI's economic growth over the period 2002 to 2007. The notable decreases in real GDP from 2005 to 2007 were largely driven by decreases in garment exports and in tourist expenditures in the CNMI by nonresidents," BEA said.

The three answered lawmakers' questions about the report.

BEA also said consumer spending and territorial government spending also contributed to variations in real GDP growth over the period 2002 to 2007.

BEA said it used methodologies consistent with the methods used to estimate U.S. GDP. It said it used information from the Economic Census of Island Areas to establish levels of GDP for 2002 to 2007.

Because the CNMI is not included in most of the major surveys used by BEA to estimate U.S. GDP, the support of government leaders in the CNMI and the assistance provided by the CNMI Departments of Commerce and Finance, as well as the Commonwealth Ports Authority, were critical to the successful production of the estimates that BEA presented yesterday.

"Moving forward, the agreement between OIA [Office of Insular Affairs] and BEA will extend and improve the estimates of GDP for the CNMI. BEA currently plans to release estimates for both 2008 and 2009 in the spring of 2011," BEA said.

The total amount of products and services produced in the CNMI in 2002 was $1.32 billion as measured in the inflation-adjusted GDP, and steadily declined since then until it reached only $962 million in 2007.

The CNMI is the only one among four U.S. territories with an average annual drop in GDP. Guam's GDP grew at an average of 1.8 percent, while American Samoa increased at an average of 0.4 percent between 2002 and 2007. The U.S. Virgin Islands also posted an annual average GDP growth of 2.9 percent in the same period.

ARTIST AT WORK

Pearl Jin, a senior at Saipan Southern High School, paints her clay sculpture of an eagle at the Public School System art exhibit and performance festival held at Hopwood Junior High School on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

LAPTOPS

From Page 1

year…but there was an issue in the bidding that we needed to address first," Thornburgh told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. He said the issue has already been settled.

Thornburgh admitted that if not for the bid protest, the manufacture and delivery of the laptops would have come earlier.

"They're still being manufactured and they will be coming well after graduation and will be available for the students next school year," he said, adding that the project covers all junior and high school students of PSS.

Of the over 5,000 laptops, some 500 will go to private schools.

The over $1 million funding for this project was sourced from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.

Some senior students who were interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday expressed surprise upon learning that they won't be getting their laptops this school year. Some expressed disappointment, saying they were expecting the laptops as promised them by the commissioner earlier this year. Others said they don't have any choice but to understand the situation.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan was in a meeting yesterday and did not return *Saipan Tribune*'s call.

Public high school principals admitted yesterday that they learned about the non-issuance of the laptops this year during the principals' meeting.

Kagman High School principal Alfred Ada said that, although he has yet to formally inform his seniors about the matter, some students who have inquired with his office have already been told about it.

"Not officially, but when they inquired…I told them about it," said Ada.

Ada believes that even without the laptops for middle and high school students, PSS will still be successful in providing effective technology learning because it's the teacher's instructional strategies that were the original plan.

Laptop issuance, he said, is part of "Plan B" for technology learning.

Kagman High School has 184 seniors.

"We're talking about thousands of laptops and I don't think it's going to happen this year. But we're anticipating these in next school year," Ada said.

Tinian Junior and High School principal Julian Hofschneider also admitted knowing about the new development but said his students were only told that they "might" have the laptops this year. His school has 52 seniors.

"Nobody was really expecting it this year…because I just told them before that we might have it," he added.

Saipan Southern High School principal Craig Garrison, for his part, said that he was not privy to the decisions of PSS on the laptop project.

"I was not aware… I was not privy to any permanent decision as to what occured and as a result, I am surprised and somewhat disappointed because these have been promised for a long time by the commissioner herself to the students," Garrison said.

"This time, I believe I have to inform all of them [students] formally so that they can plan accordingly and figure out how they can continue their education," he added. SSHS has 118 seniors this year.

Saipan Tribune learned that next school year, all 1,200 students of Marianas High School will be provided personal laptops, along with 800 students in Kagman High School, 805 in Saipan Southern High School, 225 on Tinian, and 173 at Rota High School. Chacha, Hopwood, Tinian and Rota Junior High Schools will have about 2,000 laptops under the project.

Over 500 are allocated for private high school students.

Besides the laptops, PSS is investing in e-books, or electronic books for students' easy access to materials.

PSS said the need for students to have reliable access to computers and technology is provided for under the No Child Left Behind Act.

Laptops, PSS said, are virtually a disposable technology, with new and innovative communication devices handing all aspects of data, planning, scheduling and the ability to produce multimedia presentations, projects, and proposals.

Through the laptop project, PSS expects students to exhibit an 80-percent increase in vocabulary through the use of software technology and a marked 3- to 5-point increase in their GPA as the success they achieve in the program will transfer to all academic areas.

RATES

From Page 1

effective June 1.

In a six-page decision, the commission ruled that temporary monthly charges for unmetered water service will be $40 for residential customers and $204 for commercial customers.

A separate CNMI government water and wastewater customer class was also set, comprising all components of the government, including the central government, line agencies, the college, school system, and the autonomous agencies. The metered government water rate will now be $54.30 per 1,000 gallons.

CUC was also ordered and directed to take all necessary steps to provide each water customer with an accurate working meter no later than Sept. 15, 2010 for all commercial and government water customers. For residential water customers, metering should be completed no later than Dec. 31, 2010.

The commission required CUC to provide a status report on this during the regulatory session in November.

CUC's Water Division was also authorized to make a fund transfer to the Wastewater Division in an amount not to exceed $1.2 million.

Meantime, metered wastewater rates were increased across the board by 128 percent. These increases are effective for services rendered on and after June 21, 2010, subject to CUC's satisfaction of the conditions.

A $40 meter investigation fee will also go into effect on June 21. It will not be charged to a customer if it is determined that the meter is malfunctioning.

CUC, the commission ruled, is authorized to waive the fee for indigent customers or recipients of utility or housing subsidies.

Power rate hike

The previous levelized energy adjustment clause, LEAC, rate of $0.20147 per kilowatt-hour was also adjusted to $0.24446 per kWh, effective June 1. The rate hike is composed of $0.21615 per kWh for fuel oil costs; $0.01621 per kWh to fund variations in projected fuel prices; $0.00644 per kWh to fund CUC's under-recovery of expenses for the period FY 2007 through May 31, 2010; $0.00565 per kWh to fund commission invoices for regulatory fees and expenses and for the procurement or employment of financial and technical expertise and other related expenses.

FERRY

From Page 1

He said the vessel was converted into a diving boat that services Saipan and the Northern Islands.

Tenorio, however, decided to revive the ferry service because of the immediate need of the people of Tinian.

For the trial period, the vessel will charge $25 per passenger.

Each passenger will be allowed two standard-sized boxes of luggage to and from Tinian. For excess baggage, an additional $5 will be required. The fee for children will be waived during the initial run this week.

After the trial run, the company will reassess the situation to determine if there's a need to continue operations, Cruz said.

"But for this time, the decision [to operate] is purely to help Tinian residents who need to come to Saipan to purchase goods and other necessities," said Cruz, adding that the ferry will be much cheaper than taking the plane between Saipan and Tinian.

Cruz said the ferry service will not be primarily for tourists but island residents.

"If we see the need to consider extra service…we may do so, depending on the assessment of the trial period," said Cruz.

Tinian Shipping and Transportation Inc.'s ferry service between Saipan and Tinian was suspended for five to six months starting on March 16 for repairs to comply with the American Bureau of Shipping's regulations.

Residents and tourists are forced to rely solely on air transportation. Air services between the two islands are being operated by Star Marianas Air on charter basis and Freedom Air on per ticket basis.

Cruz assured the safety and compliance of the *Super Emerald* with all legal and maritime requirements.

The vessel, he said, has been refurbished since 1991 and consistently meets safety standards.

$3.7M eyed for 'redistribution' in FY 2011 budget proposal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that "most" government agency appropriations contained in Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's proposed $132 million budget for Fiscal Year 2011 are being retained as the committee deliberates on the budget bill.

Basa said the committee is now looking at "an estimated $3.7 million to redistribute among agencies."

"We are working within the $132 million available for appropriation as proposed by the governor and most of the figures are retained. …As for the estimated $3.7 million for redistribution, it's like robbing Peter to pay Paul. …Everyone recognizes that we are in a hard financial state but we have to weather the storm," Basa told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.

He said the $3.7 million mostly comes from the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Basa also said the committee is keen on giving long-awaited salary adjustment to police officers, especially those in the lowest-ranking levels.

"But we want the [Department of Public Safety] commissioner to provide us more information and clarification on this," he added.

The House Ways and Means Committee is now deliberating on the 2011 budget after completing public hearings on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

"We have a June 15 tentative target date for coming up with a draft budget bill. We will provide every member of the House a copy so they can digest the content before a session and hopefully the budget will pass the House and the Senate," Basa added.

Basa

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said her six-member committee is wrapping up its own public hearings on the 2011 budget this week on Rota.

"After that, the committee will evaluate the findings based on the public hearings conducted on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, and submit a committee report," Taimanao said in a separate interview yesterday.

Taimanao said members of the public are grateful that the 17th Senate has been holding public hearings on the budget.

There are only a few months left before the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1, 2010.

Without a balanced and timely budget enacted for FY 2011, the CNMI government will be forced to shut down following the ratification of House Legislative Initiative 16-11 in the Nov. 7, 2009 general elections.

The initiative removed the provision for a continuing budget resolution and bars any withdrawals from the general funds except through legislative appropriations. It also suspends the salaries of lawmakers if no budget is passed on time.

Lawmakers also have to incorporate austerity measures in the budget bill because Fitial's $132 million proposed budget takes into account austerity measures that include work hour cuts and unpaid holidays.

The House of Representatives unanimously approved last month Fitial's budget proposal submitted on April 1.

Fitial identified a total of $149.371 million in projected resources for FY 2011, which begins on Oct. 1, 2010 and ends on Sept. 30, 2011.

Of this figure, $132 million is available for government operations.

Cop pleads not guilty to 2 extortion charges

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A police officer facing extortion charges has entered a not-guilty plea to a superseding indictment that added another charge against him.

Christopher Leon Guerrero on Friday pleaded not guilty to two counts of extortion under color of official right.

The original indictment charged Leon Guerrero with only one count of extortion under color of official right.

The original indictment stated that Leon Guerrero committed extortion in September 2009 by using his position as a police officer to obtain money from the driver of an illegal taxicab in exchange for dismissing the driver's criminal case.

The superseding indictment stated that the extortion was committed from about Sept. 15, 2009 through Oct. 9, 2009.

Count 2 of the superseding indictment also alleged that on or about June 13, 2009, Leon Guerrero used his position as a police officer to obtain money from an illegal taxicab driver in exchange for dismissing the driver's criminal case.

At the hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William H. Alsup announced that a trial had already been set for July 19, 2010.

The defense stated that they would keep that July 19 jury trial for the time being.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley said the conditions of Leon Guerrero's temporary release, as presently set by the court, are adequate and that there is no need to amend them.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Leon Guerrero on Nov. 16, 2009.

According to FBI special agent Haejun Park, Leon Guerrero used his official position at the Department of Public Safety to demand and receive payments ranging from $300 to $700 from illegal taxicab drivers in exchange for dismissing their criminal cases and returning the seized vehicles to the drivers.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Thursday, June 10, 2010 beginning at 6:00 PM at 1313 Anatahan Drive,Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
1. 2009 Draft Audit Report submitted by Deloitte
2. Investment Consultant Report
3. Loan Administrator Report
4. Legal Counsel Reports
5. Board Consultant Report

III OLD BUSINESS
1. RFP-Trustee Liability Insurance
2. A&E Cost Proposal
3. RFP- High Yield Investment
4. Trustee Matter
5. CD Consulting
6. J. Reed

IV COMMUNICATIONS

V NEW BUSINESS
1. Proposed Agenda Format
2. Proposed Digital Recording Software

VI MISCELLANEOUS

VII ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF Chairman, MPLT Trustees

US Maritime Administration backs NMI ship disposal program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration has affirmed its confidence in Worldwide Salvage Inc.'s ship disposal program for Saipan and added a requirement for the contract secured by the company.

MARAD formally informed Worldwide Salvage president and chief operating officer James L. McCollum on Thursday that the U.S. Department of Transportation has recognized the company as being fully qualified to perform a ship dismantling program on the island, which it initially approved in November last year.

The federal agency said the pending submission of some documents hampered the official release of the ship dismantling contract from MARAD last year. These included identifying a specific dock and warehouse in the Port of Saipan, which were turned in only in March this year.

MARAD indicated that it is now ready to move forward and would wait for Worldwide Salvage to accept the additional requirement: that any ships it will bring to Saipan for dismantling must first be scrubbed to get rid of lead paint.

Saipan Tribune learned that the new requirement arose from a May 20, 2010, order handed down by the Washington D.C. federal court in the suit between the State of California Water Board and the U.S. DOT Maritime Division.

The decision states that "no surplus ship currently owned by MARAD and anchored" in any of MARAD's three anchorages in California, Texas, and Virginia can be moved without the hull of that ship first being "scrubbed" to remove the flaking gray lead paint from its hull.

The federal court determined that any movement of such ships without their hulls first being scrubbed could result in large amounts of the gray lead paint being washed off during transport to Saipan. This could have a detrimental and unacceptable impact on the ocean environment.

The scrubbing requirement will now be added to the requirements of all MARAD contracts for the dismantling of its surplus ships, under its current solicitation for services issued in November 2009.

According to David C. Sablan, Worldwide Salvage vice president for administration, McCollum has already responded to MARAD to accept the additional responsibility of scrubbing the ships' hulls prior to moving the vessels from any of the three anchorages.

Sablan said these developments mean that the plan to set up business here on Saipan will now become a reality and they will soon be looking to hire personnel on island.

Worldwide Salvage intends to haul the ships to Saipan, dismantle them here, then sell the scraps to mainland China.

Early this year, a nonprofit environmental group, BASEL Action Network in Seattle, threatened to scrutinize the ship-scrapping contract of the company to ensure that it is safe for toxic materials.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority approved Worldwide Salvage lease agreement for the use of the dock's space and a warehouse for an initial $16 million.

RP Independence Day Buffet at Aqua on Saturday

» Aqua Resort to showcase popular Filipino delicacies in June 12 lunch buffet

By CLARISSA DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To help Filipinos on island celebrate their country's 112th year of independence, the Aqua Resort Club will feature a sumptuous *barrio* fiesta-inspired lunch buffet this Saturday at the Costa Terrace Restaurant.

Regular patrons and guests can indulge in a wide selection of popular dishes from various regions of the Philippines.

The lunch fare roster includes *Pancit Palabok*, a rice noodle dish from the Tagalog region that's smothered in a rich shrimp sauce and topped with squid, shrimp, *tinapa* (smoked fish) flakes, chicharon (crushed pork rinds), fried garlic, and camias; *Laing,* a famous Bicol dish made of taro leaves and coconut milk; and *Sumsuman,* a favorite Ilocano-style appetizer of green mango, radish, salted egg, boiled okra, and grilled eggplant served with shrimp paste in a *bilao* or circular bamboo tray.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The staff of Aqua Resort Club is ready to dish out an authentic Filipino-style barrio fiesta to celebrate the Philippines' 112th Independence Day on Saturday, June 12.

The lunch buffet will be highlighted by Aqua Resort's own Chicken in a Bamboo, a chicken dish artfully deboned and flavored with turmeric, coconut milk, ginger and taro cooked inside a bamboo; and the *Lumpiang Sariwa* or fresh vegetable *lumpia*, vegetables and shrimp rolled in home-made wrapper and served with peanut sauce.

The regular carving station for *lechon* or roast pig and a grill station for mixed seafood are still well within the reach of meat and seafood aficionados. For beverages, fresh ripe mango juice, frozen green mango juice, and green mangoritas will be available.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The lunch buffet will be highlighted by Aqua Resort's own Chicken in a Bamboo, a chicken dish cooked inside a bamboo.

An array of best-loved Filipino desserts will satisfy anyone's sweet tooth. Customers can feast on *Ginataang Halo-Halo, Ube Halaya, Turon de Manila, Nilagang Saging,* Leche Flan, Brazo de Mercedes a la Aqua Resort, and rice treats such as *Biko, Puto, Bibingka* and *Suman.*

Chef Arnel Marquez said that they've concocted a menu that caters to the *Pinoy* palate and boasts of authentic, elemental yet refined Filipino cooking that even non-Filipinos can appreciate and enjoy.

For only $25 per adult and $12.50 per child, guests can savor a hearty Filipino lunch buffet the Aqua Resort way. Local residents can avail of a 20-percent discount.

For inquiry or reservation, contact Emma at 322-1234 Ext. 731.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CPA-RFP-004-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) BRAND NEW DESKTOP COMPUTER, ONE (1) 55" HDTV MONITOR AND ONE (1) PORTABLE COMPUTER CART** to the following airports:

- Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI
- Amata Kabua International Airport, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Chuuk International Airport, Chuuk, FSM
- Kosrae International Airport, Kosrae. FSM
- Pohnpei International Airport, Pohnpei, FSM
- Yap International Airport, Yap, FSM
- Babelthuap Koror International Airport, Republic of Palau

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of One (1) Desktop Computer, One (1) 55" HDTV Monitor and One (1) Portable Computer Cart".*** The proposal must be submitted on or before **4:30 p.m., Monday, JUNE 14, 2010,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The procurement consists of the procurement and delivery of the above-subject equipment to each respective island's Airport Authority, all in accordance with the specifications. The specifications for the computers, the monitors and the carts can be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the arrival building at the Saipan International Airport. The specifications for the computer are mandated by the Federal Aviation Adminsitration so there will be absolutely no substitution of components for desktop computer system.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes and shipping and handling costs that will be charged to the company awarded the procurement, including excise tax. CPA will not consider unjustifiable cost escalations due to unforeseen circumstances once contract is executed.

The contract period for delivery of all equipment to each respective island shall be **THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS** from issuance of purchase order.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than June 7, 2010.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

June 1, 2010
Date

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DOC-108

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 15, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE PSS GREEN ENERGY PROJECT AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS, CNMI FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVSION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ONE MANDATORY WALKTHROUGH WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 24, 2010 STARTING AT 9:00 A.M, AT SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL, SAIPAN, CNMI.

QUESTION MUST ME SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND ADDRESSED TO MR. CHRIS FRYLING, AIA, PROJECT MANAGER VIA E-MAIL TO cfryling@cnmiarra.net OR FAX TO 1+(670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN JULY 06, 2010, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY, DPW

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DFW-115

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 24, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE & INSTALLATION OF A 60 HP BOAT ENGINE FOR THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE-FISHERIES RESEARCH PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ, D.V.M.
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP10-DOC-109

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 15, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DESIGN, INSTALLATION, AND COMMISSIONING OF THE PSS GREEN ENERGY PROJECT AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS, CNMI FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVSION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ONE MANDATORY WALKTHROUGH WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 24, 2010 STARTING AT 9:00 A.M, AT SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL, SAIPAN, CNMI.

QUESTION MUST ME SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND ADDRESSED TO MR. CHRIS FRYLING, AIA, PROJECT MANAGER VIA E-MAIL TO cfryling@cnmiarra.net OR FAX TO 1+(670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN JULY 06, 2010, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY, DPW

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP: 2010-CDA-10-RFP
CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"REAL ESTATE BROKER SERVICES"

Copies of the proposal may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 1st Floor, Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

/s/MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Saipan joins product recall for 'Shrek' glasses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Close to a thousand "Shrek" glasses recently sold by McDonald's stores on Saipan are now subject of a voluntary recall by the company starting Friday morning.

Ana Olaes, McDonald's general supervisor, said that, although they are confident in the safety of the items they sold, company owner Joe Ayuyu decided to voluntarily recall the products on display as a precautionary measure.

Saipan Tribune learned that both stores in Garapan and Middle Road sold about 20 cases of the product, estimated at nearly 1,000 pieces since last week.

Olaes said McDonald's decided to stop offering the product after receiving a memorandum from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission that raised concerns about high cadmium content.

Cadmium is a carcinogen that can cause bone softening and severe kidney problems. Research also suggests that it can, like lead, hinder brain development in the very young.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission recall notice, long term exposure to the element can cause adverse health effects.

"Since we're working with the commission for a long time, McDonald's Saipan has pulled out the stocks and voluntarily recalled the items," she explained.

The commission ordered the recall of some fashion jewelry last year, also because of high cadmium content.

Olaes said McDonald's Shrek glasses have been found to have far less cadmium than the content of these recalled fashion jewelry.

Saipan Tribune learned that McDonald's was supposed to start offering the promotional items this month but because the movie *Shrek Forever Act* is now in theaters, they decided to launch the campaign earlier than scheduled.

For items that have already been sold, McDonald's will soon come out with procedures on how to return the merchandise once the process is finalized.

"The voluntary pull out of the merchandise in our stores is for precautionary measures because safety and the well-being of our customers is still our No. 1 priority," Olaes said.

Saipan Tribune learned that, although the items have been recalled, some customers were still looking for the items yesterday.

Olaes believes that many customers use the glasses mainly for display and collections purposes only.

AP

A "Shrek"-themed glass distributed in McDonald's Happy Meals.

4 NMI students head to Japan for 10-day APCC Convention

A four-student delegation led by Marianas Visitors Authority's Tasia S. Bocago will head to Fukuoka, Japan, to attend the 22nd Annual Asian Pacific Children's Convention. The Convention, from July 18 - 27, invites children from the Asian-Pacific region to Fukuoka as "Junior Ambassadors." The goal is improve each child's international understanding through intercultural exchange programs such as home-stays, school visits, and exchange camps in Fukuoka. This year's Junior Ambassadors from the NMI are Phillip Adriano Cabrera, Kassandra Tudela Royal, Jezreelyn Y. Bulaklak, and Xyrus Hocog Manglona.

The 2010 convention theme is "We are the BRIDGE: We connect dreams around the world." Participation in APCC helps to generate appreciation for the cultures of other nations, with the aim of promoting mutual understanding and friendship to nurture international awareness in young people. Junior Ambassadors will live with a Japanese host family, taking part in day-to-day activities and learning about Japanese culture. In addition, Ambassadors will learn about other cultures represented at the convention, when each regional delegation shares a cultural presentation with their counterparts.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for these children," said Community Programs manager Martin Duenas. "We hope that each Junior Ambassador will bring back an increased awareness of our global interconnections, and that they will share this with their friends and families."

The APCC was founded in 1989 by the Fukuoka Junior Chamber. The annual convention hosts children from more than 30 countries and regions throughout the Asian-Pacific area. This year, over 300 children from 46 Asian locales will attend, including representatives from NMI, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Tahiti, Australia, Hawaii, Philippines, and Guam.

For more information about this event, contact MVA's Frank Tudela at ftudela@mymarianas.com or 1-670-664-3200. ***(MVA)***

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezones)

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is asking for your comments on the following proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map of sheet #15 (Kagman): These include lots located at the intersection of Isa Drive and Kagman Road, both sides of the streets:

1. Rezone file 2010-0841 by Ramon B. Camacho to change TR 22796 H-422 from Rural to Mixed Commercial Zoning District to operate Auto Repair, General;
2. Rezone of various lots proposed by the Acting Zoning Administrator to change TR 22796-7; TR22796-8; 22700-R1; 22700-R2; TR22700-2; TR22638-R1; TR 22638-1; TR22638-3-1 from Rural to Mixed Commercial Zoning District.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, July 7, 2010
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Kagman Komunidat Center

The proposed map changes may be viewed at Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 12:00 pm, Thursday, July 8, 2010. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008. /s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chairperson

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PAWS CORNER

Dog found

A responsible citizen found a youn dog in CK, behind Townhouse, on Sunday, June 6, 2010.

The dog is described as a male boonie dog, about 6 months old, that is brown with white on the neck. If you are missing a dog that fits this description, call Gus 788-8129 and 234-3541.

For adoption

PAWS has numerous cats and kittens up for adoptions to good homes. Anyone interested in adopting a cat or kitten should call Paradise Island Animal Hospital at 234-9669 or PAWS at 285-PAWS.

Three kittens

Paradise Island Animal Hospital is currently boarding three (3) kittens, all from different litters, all between 7-9 weeks of age, and all in need of good homes. The kittens have been treated for fleas and ticks and de-wormed. If you are interested in adopting one of these cute little kittens, visit Paradise Island Animal Hospital on Middle Road or call 234-9669.

Momma cat and five kittens

A PAWS member was kind enough to rescue a mother cat and her five kittens. The mother cat is soon to be spayed and placed up for adoption to a new home. She has been de-wormed and vaccinated. The five kittens are also up to adoption to a good home. They are 7 weeks of age and have been de-wormed.

If you are interested in adopting one or more of these cats/kittens, contact PAWS at 285-PAWS or Kerry at leoshon1@hotmail.com. You may also contact Paradise Island Animal Hospital at 234-9669.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Oleai school PTSA meeting today

The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of its students that there will be a PTSA meeting today, June 8, 2010, at 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. ***(PR)***

Meeting for Boy Scout adult leaders set

Jesus C. Muna, chairman of the CNMI District of the Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America, is informing all Boy Scout adult leaders that there will be roundtable meeting on Thursday, June 10, 2010, at 6pm at the Oleai Elementary School cafeteria.

The agenda will include preparation for the July 4th parade and the upcoming 2010 CNMI District Boy Scout Summer Camp Program, to be held on July 25-Aug. 1, 2010, at the Kan Pacific swimming pool field in Marpi. The presence of all Boy Scout adult leaders at this roundtable meeting will be greatly appreciated. Scout parents or legal guardians are also invited to attend this meeting.

For more information, call Calistro Reyes at 235-9708/ 285-9709, Oscar C. Torres at 236-9870 or William Hunter at 235-6025. ***(PR)***

CNMI Women's Organization meeting

The chairwoman of the CNMI Women's Organization, Florine Hofschneider, is calling a meeting for CNMI Women on Thursday, June 10, at 12pm at the Canton Restaurant in Garapan. The meeting is Dutch (pay for your own meal) type.

Indigenous village campaign schedule

June 8, 6:30pm at the China Town Basketball Court

June 9, 6:30pm at the Koblerville Basketball Court

June 10, 6:30pm at the San Antonio Basketball Court

June 15, 6:30pm at the Chalan Kanoa Dist. 4 Round House (across Post Office)

June 16, 6:30pm at the Chalan Kanoa Dist. 1 Basketball court (by the cemetery)

June 17, 6:30pm at the Susupe Basketball Court

Summer special on Korean culture and language at NMC

The Korean Cultural Center will provide a special program at NMC this summer. This contains a beginner's conversational course designed to reinforce the fundamentals of the Korean language. This proficiency-based foreign language course also focuses on developing listening, comprehension, vocabulary, and expressions to be able to communicate in Korean. The classes will take place in room A-12 from 5pm to 6pm on Fridays and 10am to 11am on Saturdays in June, July and August.

Participants will also learn about the cultural and textual heritage of Korea. A primary goal of this class is to encourage cultural understanding and to provide a site of cultural exchange between Koreans and CNMI residents. The Korean Cultural Center will present opportunities devoted to diverse aspects of Korean and Korean contemporary culture as well as traditional heritage. Contact Daniel Huh (285-2221), e-mail korean2221@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Free fitness classes at Kagman center

The Kagman Komunidat Association is conducting free fitness classes at the Kagman Community Center on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5pm to 6pm. Only 15 participants will be accommodated per class so make your reservations soon. Participants must bring an exercise mat, sweat towel, exercise shoes, and drinking water. Any hotels or businesses that wish to donate mats can contact KKA. To reserve a spot, call Greg DL Guerrero at 285-4007 or e-mail kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com.

Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The persons featured in last week's photo have been identified as Joshua Tanaka, Carmen Olopai Tanaka and their children Jennifer (being held), James and Clarissa. Identified by Leila Olopai, Carmen Rebuenog, Edward San Nicolas, Sonya Jane Olopai, Joyce Castro, Marylou Tanaka, Ramon Dela Cruz, Leo Kani, Mariana Taitano, Toni Matundan, Erna O. Ngirchongor, Jim Kirby, Vicky T. Deleon Guerrero, Kiki Marciano, Anna Pua, Juan R. Camacho, Larry Norita, Ben Tenorio, Rosa Warakai, Virginia Mettao, Jocelyn A. Kapileo, Thelma Torres, Anna Sakisat, Remedio Cangco, Lucy Shilling, Franko Indalecio, Chong Torres, and Frank Mettao.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to Evangeline R. Garcia, shown here on the left with her niece. "Sorry so late but better late than never. From your beloved husband and all of us at Children's World Daycare. May all your wishes come true!"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings to Amor Borja, with wishes for many more birthdays to come. We hope all your wishes come true on your special day! Greetings come from your daughter and loving husband and all of us here at Children's World Daycare.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 8, 1999

DPL: No to debt forgiveness

The Division of Public Lands is opposed to a request of the Rota Resort and Country Club to write off its debts to the government representing unpaid lease charges as it has begun weighing seriously the plan of the Legislature to extend its lease agreement. DPL Director Bertha C. Leon Guerrero said the issue on land lease payment will be considered when public land officials meet with representatives of SNM Corporation, the owner of the financially-troubled resort. Based on the financial records of the division, SNM owes $291,000 in unpaid rent and $180,000 in late fees. But the resort claimed they have paid their dues since the agreement was enforced in 1991.

MVA realigns funds to sustain promotions

With the $1 million cut in its $7 million budget for Fiscal 999, the Marianas Visitors Authority had to reprogram some of its remaining funds to be able to carry out its key projects this year, said Dave M. Sablan, board chairman. of the tourism office. The 13.4 percent budget slash implemented by the Office of the Governor plus the 1 percent contribution to the Office of the Public Auditor resulted in a total reduction of $1,08,700. Promotions for Hong Kong and Taiwan markets would have to wait for the next fiscal year since these are no longer included in the 1999 budget. Continental Micronesia had pledged to help MVA carry out its marketing campaign there with the absence of a representative office.

June 8, 2000

AGO: 'Transfer right' provision vague

The Attorney General's Office has advised the Legislature to clarify the provisions of a proposed measure which will allow for the transfer of retirement service credit between spouses. Assistant Attorney General Elliot A. Sattler said the language in HB 12-109 which creates the "transfer right" is vague and confusing, thus it could be subject to various interpretations. "This deficiency could create problems in implementing this proposal unless the legislative intent is stated in more definitive language," Mr. Sattler said. The concept of allowing one spouse to advance or transfer service credit to the other spouse is not contrary to either the CNMI Constitution or applicable statutory law.

NMIRF taps M&I for securities lending

The Northern Marianas Retirement Fund Board has chosen M&I (Marshall and Isley) Investment Management Company to do securities lending investment, according to its administrator, Juan S. Torres. He said M&I's appointment was based on the recommendation of the Fund's Investment Committee, which conducted a thorough analysis of the offers made by the firms that were short listed by Merril Lynch, the Fund's consultant. "M&I offers a better package to fit our desire for portfolio diversification and at the same time realizing minimal risk," Mr. Torres said.

June 8, 2001

Northern Islands development plan hits snag

Plans to develop the Northern Islands into a full-scale economic realm are on a standstill following initial findings from US Geological Survey scientists that yielded upbeat volcanic activity on Pagan. Based on preliminary investigation, Volcanologist Frank Trusdell reported that out of the four islands the Northern Islands Mayors Office is eyeing to develop, only Alamagan surfaced as the island with no recorded historical volcanic eruption. Alamagan is, therefore, viewed safest in terms of development plans and resettlement. But Pagan, which happens to be the thrust of NIMO's economic development scheme, was found to be the home of the most active volcano up north.

US Dept. of Defense liable for neglect

The US Department of Defense is legally liable and will be made to comply with the CNMI Harmful Substance Clean up Regulations for failing to clean the Tanapag Village off toxic materials. Assistant Attorney General Murphy Peterson disclosed the DOD (specifically Army Corps of Engineers) failed to comply with Division of Environmental Quality's letter of notice issued in April. In an interview with reporters, Peterson said the cleanup regulation is an object of scrutiny by other island nations which the Defense department also utilized as military base in the past years. Aside from Marshall Islands, Guam, Palau, FSM and the American Samoa are all interested on how CNMI will implement the regulations to compel the federal government to cleanup its toxic mess.

SSHS students pass nat'l computer certification test

Seven students from Saipan Southern High School's Computer Electronic Class successfully passed a rigorous national computer comprehensive examination in Guam on May 27.

The test was for the Comp TIA A+ program (Computing Technology Industry Association) that is conducted nationwide. In order for the student to receive a certification of completion, they must pass a two-part exam in two days. Both tests measure students' competencies for entry level information technology professionals with 500 hours of hands-on experience in the lab and field, to include installation, upgrading repair, building as well as configuration and computer security. Students are tested in their knowledge of troubleshooting, diagnosing and performing preventive maintenance for computer hardware and the operating systems. The Comp TIA A+ certification is mandatory for service technicians and is recognized by major companies such as Microsoft, Hewitt-Packard, and Cisco and Novell Companies.

James T. Lizama, computer electronic instructor at SSHS and a Microsoft and CompTIA-certified professional, said he started preparing the student for the CompTIA A+ exams since April. He said the students did a lot of hands-on practice in class, where they actually did troubleshooting, upgrading, and installation of computers.

The students also reviewed a lot of practice test questions and test materials, both in class and after school, everyday and all the way to the day of the exam.

"All the hard work and determination, has paid off for them, becoming CompTIA A+ certified," said Lizama. "I feel very grateful and at the same time very happy for this group of kids. They have worked very hard and in the end it paid off. They have proven to themselves that, with hard work and determination, they can accomplish anything."

When asked how he feels about the result of the test, he said, "I am so proud of them for accomplishing something that no one on this island has done and that is being certified at the high school level."

Being members of the CompTIA Education to Career (E2C) program enabled these students to be certified while still in high school. Saipan Southern High School is one of the few high schools in the United States that is a member of CompTIA E2C program. Once these students get out of high school, they can go straight to working with computer giants like IBM and Hewlett Packard.

Saipan Southern High School principal Craig Garrison and Education Commissioner Rita Sablan promoted and funded the program, giving the students the opportunity to obtain their certifications in Guam.

The students said they prepared for the test by studying "long in advance and more in groups, helping each other."

When asked how she feels after passing the exam, Rachel Sumor said, "When I finished the test I only looked for one word and that was "Pass." Just seeing that word alone made me really happy."

Melvin Cadiang remembers: "I felt blissful the moment I saw the word 'Pass." At first I didn't know I could make it but at the end everything [and] studying hard paid off."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School students display their CompTIA A+ Certification after passing a rigorous competency test in Guam. Such certification is recognized by major computer companies such as Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard, making it mandatory for all service technician employees. Front, from left, Rodolfo Guiao Jr., Rachel Sumor, Aireen Valencia, Donna Formalejo, and Leander Villagomez. Rear, from left, computer instructor James T. Lizama, Raph Zapanta, and Melvin Cadiang.

As for Aireen Valencia, she thought of her parents and said, "When I passed the exam I felt happy and at the same time I felt that I accomplished something that will make my parents proud."

Leander Villagomez joked: "It's over…now I can go shopping! …I felt really good afterwards, I get to be lazy again."

As for Rodolpho Guiao, he said: "After seeing the congratulations screen, I was relieved of all the studying and pressure I had. It all paid off. I'm certified! Yay!"

Ralph Zapanta can only say, "I was relieved when I saw the words "you passed." It took a long time of studying and it finally paid off." ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 2pm** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at Conference Room #2 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
V. Chairperson's Report
VI. Director's Report
VII. Investigator's Report
VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
IX. Old Business:
  A. Draft Regulations
X. New Business:
XI. Applications for Board's Review
  A. New/Renewal Applications
  B. Pending Applications
    1. Dr. Manuel Roco - Physician
XII. Miscellaneous Business:
  A. Delegation of Officers
XIII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
  A. Dr. Taylor
XIV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
XV. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Dr. Janet McCullough
Chairperson

Congratulations Graduates!

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Phone: 288-2006 • Fax: 288-2007 • Email: ladera2006@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability for the Mariana Islands Range Complex Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations [40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508]) and in accordance with Executive Order 12114, the U.S. Navy, on behalf of the Department of Defense Representative Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau (DoD Rep), has prepared a final EIS/OEIS that evaluates the potential environmental effects of ongoing and proposed activities within the Navy's existing Mariana Islands Range Complex. It contains analyses of the potential impacts associated with ongoing and proposed military training, research and development, and testing activities, as well as proposed enhancements to the capabilities of the range complex.

The final EIS/OEIS includes analyses of the potential environmental effects on these resource areas: geology, soils and bathymetry, air quality, hazardous materials and wastes, water quality, airborne noise, marine communities, fish and essential fish habitat, sea turtles, marine mammals, sea birds and shore birds, terrestrial species and habitats, land use, transportation, demographics, regional economy, recreation, cultural resources, environmental justice and protection of children, and public health and safety.

In compliance with the CEQ regulations, public hearings were held in association with the draft EIS/OEIS. Public hearings are not required for the final EIS/OEIS. The final EIS/OEIS includes written and oral comments received during the public review of the draft EIS/OEIS and responses to those comments. The DoD Rep will make his decision, which will be recorded in the Record of Decision after the 30-day waiting period.

The final EIS/OEIS has been made available to individuals, agencies and organizations that requested a copy of the final document or provided comments on the draft EIS/OEIS. An electronic copy of the final EIS/OEIS is available for public viewing at **www.MarianasRangeComplexEIS.com.** It is also available for review at the following information repositories:

- ***Guam*** – University of Guam, Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Government Documents Room, 671-735-2321 and Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, 671-475-4753
- ***Saipan*** – Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, 670-235-7322
- ***Tinian*** – Northern Marianas College, Public Library, 670-433-0504
- ***Rota*** – Rota Public Library, 670-532-9443

Written comments on the final EIS/OEIS must be postmarked or received by **July 6, 2010**. Comments should be mailed to Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific; Attn: MIRC EIS/OEIS Project Manager; 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100; Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134. Comments can also be submitted via fax at 808-474-5419 and e-mail at marianas.tap.eis@navy.mil.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Graduation's here, ready or not

By LINDA P. CAMPBELL
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

There's a scene in "The Homecoming" when Elizabeth, the youngest of John and Olivia Walton's brood, keeps pushing on her head as though to squeeze herself into a box that's probably too small for her little body.

When her brother asks what she's doing, she tells him she's trying to keep from growing up.

No, it doesn't work.

No matter how hard you hold them down, pull them back or order them to "Stop it!" they go on, year after year, turning the pages of their lives, oblivious to whether you're keeping pace.

And before you're ready, they reach the day they're supposed to put on cap and gown, walk across a stage, shake some hands and be declared ready for the next big thing.

And you're left wondering what happened to that first day of kindergarten, when your daughter wouldn't let go of your hand.

And that day you relented to let your son play seventh-grade football.

The day you let your middle schoolers walk to school by themselves—that whole quarter of a mile around the corner.

The day you let them drive themselves to high school and fretted all day about whether they'd be safe.

Those all happened just yesterday, didn't they?

When I brought up the idea of a graduation party, my son wasn't so enthused.

"That's for you," he said. "We don't need to celebrate something we were supposed to do."

Or words to that effect.

He's right—but only partly.

We parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles and other adults do need a bit of closure.

Graduation means an end to endless fundraisers. No more soccer games bundled in sleeping bags, football games in the rain, baseball until 11 o'clock on a school night. No more concession stands, open houses, school assemblies, texts from coaches and e-mails to teachers. No more phone calls from the trainer, visits to the attendance office and crumpled notes dug from the bottoms of backpacks.

It means free time on evenings and weekends, and that's a momentous lifestyle change I need to come to terms with.

But graduation also means completion of one stage in order to move on to the next.

And that's an accomplishment, even if it was expected even before the day they picked out their first school supplies.

Only about two-thirds of American public high school students get a diploma in the four years that's still the typical high school career, according to the Alliance for Excellent Education.

So today's graduation is a milestone, a rite of passage, an achievement worth making a fuss over. It would seem inconsiderate, even disrespectful, to treat it as no big deal.

And it would be unthinkable to resist the chance to offer words of motherly advice.

Be nice.

The things you do live after you, so send out ripples that have a positive impact. The golden rule doesn't say it's OK

See GRADUATION'S on Next Page

GAZA "AID" ACTIVIST
"...THERE I WAS, ON MY FLOTILLA, MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS, WHEN a BUNCH OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS ATTACKED ME, COMPLETELY UNPROVOKED!"
©2010 THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE 6/13

Economy: The trouble with bubbles

By WALTER MURCH and LAWRENCE WESCHLER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"I can calculate the movements of the stars, but not the madness of men."—Isaac Newton, after losing the equivalent of $3 million in the financial catastrophe of the South Sea Bubble in 1720.

The word "bubble" just has an inescapably happy feel to it, conjuring up kids and parties and sudden iridescent poppings, screams of laughter, the giddy clapping of happy hands and an overall lack of consequence. That was fun; now where's the cake?

Even more so when the word gets paired with "tulip" or "South Sea." Where could the harm possibly be in such blithe and fragrant things? Certainly not in the words themselves: exotic petals, swaying grass-skirted maidens, spheres of trembling insubstantiality.

Things get a bit more pedestrian with the more up-to-date dot-com and housing bubbles. But still, seriously, where's the harm?

Well, to paraphrase Christopher Wren's epitaph: If you seek its monument, look around you. The financial wreckage from the most recent housing bubble (that outbreak of "irrational exuberance") is still being inventoried, and its consequences are considerably more serious than the wet smacking pop associated with the word itself. And there was no cake (unless it came in the form of those sweet bonuses handed out as party favors to the executive celebrants up and down Wall Street).

And yet, despite the economic damage of the last few years, we are repeatedly soothed by the innocence of the word "bubble" itself. Lulled by language, we're invited to contemplate, with relative equanimity, simply getting to hear that fateful "pop" every so often, as the inevitable price to be paid for the market freedoms of the unregulated capitalistic system. Ah well: Kids will be kids.

But what if we were to conjure another metaphor? Perhaps a more apt analogy. Might it help rouse a more pertinent response?

Take, for example, the constantly surging froth of pre-cancerous cells in each of us. At any given moment, a rogue cell might somehow lose a sense of its place in the organism—that it is a liver cell, say—and instead believe itself to be alone in a hostile, plunderable environment. This is not surprising when you consider that there are 50 times more cells in a human body than there are stars in the Milky Way: 10 trillion versus 200 billion. Something's bound to go wrong somewhere. Under such circumstances, the rogue cell's raison d'etre becomes: "Defend. Survive. Dominate: Be fruitful and multiply." And so it does, using the local environment—of the liver in this case—as a food resource to be exploited by whatever means necessary

For most of us, most of the time, this pre-cancerous froth never proves a problem because there is a regulatory agency—the immune system—that quickly identifies those rogue cells, reminds them who they really are and encourages them, as it were, to commit suicide, a process known as apoptosis. This fatal encouragement can come spontaneously from within the cell itself (suddenly recognizing its own roguishness) or from the surrounding healthy cells (a neighborhood group enforcing community standards) or from immune-system "police" cells patrolling the body as a whole. This process is happening constantly, is part of the normal functioning of the healthy organism and gets accomplished without any awareness on our part.

Trouble occurs when, for some reason, the normal functioning of apoptosis breaks down—the cell's own compunction fails to kick in, the surrounding cells prove too weak or are otherwise distracted, the local regulatory agency is asleep at the switch—and the cell in question cannot be persuaded to end its life. Instead, it multiplies exponentially, becoming the seed of a cancerous tumor. Only now, at a certain threshold, does the greater organism become aware of it, and an existential conflict ensues.

The tumor is now set against the interests of the greater organism of which it was once a part. Its brief is to flourish at all costs, to thrive at the expense of the surrounding healthy tissue. Followed to its inevitable conclusion, this means doom for both the host and the tumor. Though, of course, until that dreadful "pop," the tumor doesn't see it this way.

What would it be like to think of the travails of the wider economy, the coursing flow of capital through the body politic, in those terms? (It's worth remembering that when the sainted Adam Smith first began to ponder the circulation of capital in the seminal explorations that would lead to his monumental "Wealth of Nations," he was quite consciously modeling his inquiry on William Harvey's explanation of the circulation of blood a few generations earlier.)

What if, instead of that playful word bubble, we tried something a bit more accurately descriptive when growth at any cost became the goal. Say, "tumor": "the dot-com tumor," "the subprime tumor," "the derivatives tumor."

Would anyone seriously gainsay the highest possible vigilance over the proper functioning of their own body or doubt the need for strong regulation? Who, facing the prospect of a tumorous outbreak or living with a body demonstrably prone to such outbreaks, would entrust that body to a band of physicians blithely committed to laissez faire regarding these fatal bubbles of flesh?

Words matter. Metaphors frame thought. Pay them heed and

See ECONOMY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The questions keep coming

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

Every time we do a "questions" column, we get still more questions from readers. Last week we responded to questions related to false immigration rumors. Today we will look at questions related to status, and to confusion generated by the transition from CNMI to U.S. immigration law.

Question; I know that several years ago many stateless people became U.S. citizens through a federal court decision. My sister was born on Saipan in 1985, but she is living and studying in the Philippines. Our parents are Philippine citizens. Is my sister a U.S. citizen? Can she still enter the CNMI? What should she do?

Answer: In its July 2004 decision in *Sabangan v. Powell*, the so-called "stateless" case, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals confirmed that all people born in the CNMI on and after Jan. 9, 1978 are U.S. citizens by birthright. The plaintiffs were all children of foreign citizens, and were all born in the CNMI between Jan. 9, 1978 and Nov. 3, 1986. They were referred to in the press and popular discussions as "stateless" because the U.S. State Department rejected their citizenship claims and applications for passports on the grounds that (a) they were born before Nov. 4, 1986, the date on and after which children born in the CNMI were without dispute U.S. citizens by birth, and (b) because the plaintiffs had acquired their parents' citizenship at birth.

We discussed *Sabangan* in our April 20 column ("Am I a U.S. Citizen Under the Covenant?"), but your question concerns a practical issue we did not consider then: Under *Sabangan*, your sister was a U.S. citizen by virtue of being born in the CNMI after Jan. 9, 1978. Did her subsequent residence in the Philippines change that?

We don't think so. Although there are rules regarding retention of citizenship by children born abroad to one U.S. citizen parent, under *Sabangan* your sister acquired U.S. citizenship at birth. It is possible that she also acquired Philippine citizenship, and is a dual citizen of both countries. Nonetheless, you have not suggested that your sister did any of the acts that would "expatriate" her from the United States, allowing her to be denaturalized. The U.S. Supreme Court held in 1939 that a child born in the U.S. but removed to another country as a child can retain U.S. citizenship merely by returning to the U.S. after attaining the age of majority. Over 50 years ago the Ninth Circuit, following the U.S. Supreme Court, held that the government must prove denaturalization by "clear, convincing and unequivocal evidence."

Interestingly, *Sabangan* did not discuss statelessness at all. It rested entirely on its holding that the Covenant imported the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states that "[a]ll persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States . . . ."

Your sister should apply for her U.S. passport. She should be able to do that through the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

Q: Prior to Nov. 28, my husband had a student permit and got an umbrella permit on that basis. After federalization, he found an employer who was willing to hire him, so he applied to have his status converted to contract worker (240K). While that application was pending, the employer changed his mind and now no longer wants to hire him. What must he do to maintain his status?

A: Under CNMI law, persons with a CNMI student permit are not allowed to work. The federal government takes a different position and says that persons with a student permit are authorized to work, at least through the end of their umbrella permit. Until this controversy between the CNMI and federal government is resolved, we are advising clients to comply with CNMI law, just to be on the safe side. Some attorneys have disagreed with us on this issue, but we are reluctant to tell people with limited resources to defend themselves in court, that they can ignore CNMI law.

In terms of the CNMI law, your husband did the right thing to apply to convert his status to 240K when he decided to go to work. It is too bad that the employer changed his mind; unfortunately that is happening more and more in our depressed economy. Your husband has several options in the CNMI system: if his status has not been converted yet, he can remain in student status by attending school full time; if his status has been converted to a 240K, he needs to find an employer. In order to preserve his status under the CNMI system, he needs to go down to Employment Services and register. This will give him 30 days to find a job. If he fails to find a job within that period, he needs to go back to Employment Services and apply for an extension. After paying a $50 fee, he will get another 30-day extension. When he finds an employer, the employer will need to submit an Employer Intent form, which makes a commitment to hire the individual. The employer must then file all the required documents to hire a foreign worker within a specific period of time. The maximum amount of time he can be hired is through Nov. 27, 2011. Some time before that date, he will need to transition into a U.S. visa status in order to remain lawfully in the Commonwealth.

Alternately, your husband may choose to try to find an employer on the basis that the federal government has authorized him to work. If he can find a like-minded employer, well and good. But he should understand that the dispute between the CNMI and the federal government has not been settled. We hope that happens soon.

Q: I am a contract worker in the CNMI and my wife and daughter are here as my dependents since 2002. When they first came, I was required to post a cash bond. Now that the CNMI no longer controls immigration, can I get my money back?

A: No, at least not now. You can redeem the bond when your dependents leave the CNMI. We will assume that you and your family each have umbrella permits. A condition of the umbrella permits for Category 240E (alien dependents) was as follows:

> *Sponsor's undertaking:* The sponsor of the holder of this permit is responsible for all medical and repatriation expenses for the holder, any sponsored alien immediate relatives, and minor children, so as not to create any financial burden on the CNMI and the holder will maintain sufficient resources or provide a sufficient bond or undertaking by a financially responsible third party to meet these obligations.

Therefore, if you have a bond, you are obligated to maintain it while your dependents remain in the Commonwealth. At some point before Nov. 28, 2011, you and your family will need to obtain some kind of U.S. visa status or you will need to leave the Commonwealth. Whether you are able to stay, or have to leave, your bond should be returned to you then.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune *at editor@saipantribune.com.*

ECONOMY

From Page 10

tend them well.

Next up: that other dandy, "spill," (oops!) and a more accurate alternative: hemorrhage.

Lawrence Weschler is director of the New York Institute for the Humanities at NYU and the author of, among other books, Everything that Rises: A Book of Convergences. *Walter Murch, the film and sound editor of, among other movies,* Apocalypse Now *and* The English Patient*, is the author of* In the Blink of an Eye. *They wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

GRADUATION'S

From Page 10

to act ugly because someone else already did or just might. Sure, there's evil in the world, but you needn't help it flourish.

Be careful.

Life is dangerous enough; you don't need to take reckless risks. The world is full of potholes, pitfalls and pollution. Many of them you can avoid by making good choices. Doing the right thing might not be the easiest, but it unfailingly will result in better consequences.

Be happy.

Life's an amazing journey, full of promise and opportunity. It won't always take you where you think you want to go, but the detours can prove more exciting than your personal roadmap. Sometimes you'll get lost and need directions. But be patient, take comfort in the certainties and enjoy the surprises.

And know that my tears come with joy and with sadness and with eagerness to learn what happens next.

Linda P. Campbell is a columnist and editorial writer for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. *Readers may write to her at 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via e-mail at lcampbell@star-telegram.com.*

Letter to the Editor

Stanley: Fooey to the USA

"Freedom is not free," intoned Gov. Benigno Fitial during the Memorial Day ceremony held at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi last week.

"And for those who died in action in the war against terrorism and paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country...acknowledging the debt owed to the brave men and women who cherished peace, chose to be warriors, and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom," so did vice commander of the 36th wing at AAFB in Guam, Col. Tod R. Fingal, declare moments later.

To serve in the name of duty and honor. Thirty burials grace this sacred place, 12 died in action, 18 were veterans who served honorably. The majority of attendees that paid homage were active military duty personnel, ROTC kids from high schools, their family and friends but especially the veterans of wars fought. Older now, lined faces with eyes forever watchful, yet shoulders squared in pride, with backs strong and forever ready. There were a few elected and appointed officials in attendance, then it struck me: nowhere was Rep. Stanley Torres to be seen nor those words above heard by him. And I remembered.

Stanley does not believe he is an American yet he takes all that is given. For too many years his personal and selfish agenda has been to secede from the U.S.A. As a lawmaker he has been attempting to do so for over a decade. Today, Stanley has yet another bill—one of many he has attempted to pass into law—pending for hearing in the CNMI Legislature. However cleverly re-written, this version to "revisit" the political relationship between the Commonwealth and the U.S. is again another shrouded attempt to misguide our islands toward independence. Stanley has not learned the hard lesson of survival as evidenced by other former Trust Territory Pacific Islands that chose that very path and continue to struggle in poverty since being granted their wish three decades ago.

There are a handful of others right here on the island who share Stanley's vainglorious scheme. Is this sentiment, then, bordering on the criminal? Emphatically not. It is their inalienable right, of many other rights they hungrily embrace as granted to citizens of the U.S. by its system of democracy—rights defended with the blood spilled by others—so dissenters like them can freely voice their opinion while being protected from tyranny, oppression and an attack on our soil by terrorists.

Legions of citizens in the Commonwealth enjoy, and return in kind, the prosperity and freedoms bequeathed upon them, us, by being Americans. Many hundreds were present at the ceremony to honor the fallen. Many more will perish, as of this writing, in the defense of the freedom we enjoy today—and for Stanley.

So to Stanley Torres as before, I say again: Be the man you want others to believe you are; stand tall and walk the talk. If you truly feel that America and its democracy is not your democracy, don't hesitate, *burn* your treasured U.S. blue passport *today.* I shall gladly invite the international news media for world coverage to video this momentous event; and several other real Americans have been patiently waiting in line, with lighters in hand, to hurry you on your way.

And then see what happens—to you.

Lee Andersen
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds near 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

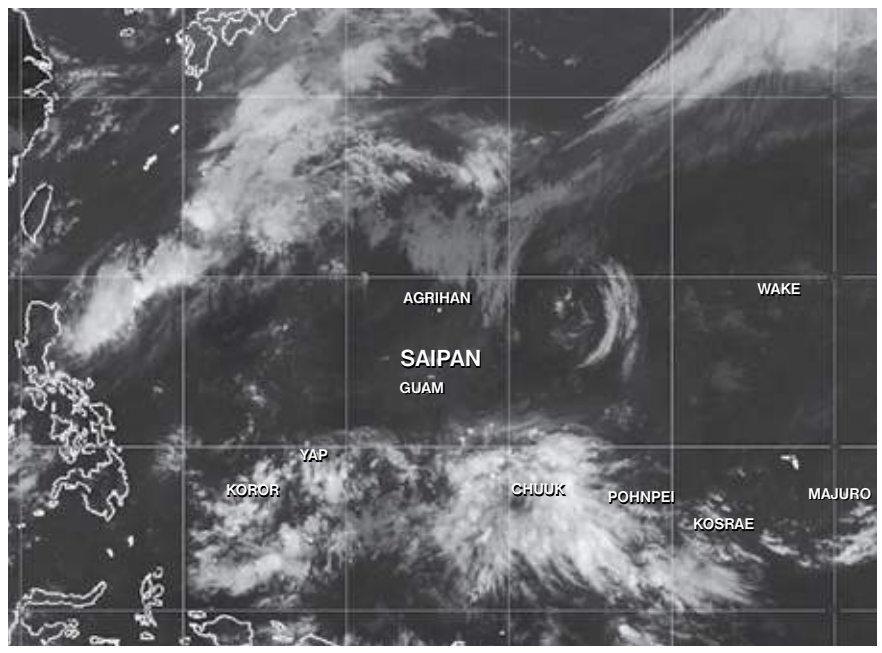
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲55	▼46
Beijing	Cloudy	▲90	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
London	Showers	▲63	▼55
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼83
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
New York	Sunny	▲79	▼57
Osaka	Showers	▲72	▼65
Paris	Showers	▲71	▼57
Pusan	Sunny	▲74	▼62
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼64
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼48
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲87	▼64
Tokyo	Showers	▲71	▼65
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging southwest winds south of a stationary front north of 25N are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of a line from 19N130E to 22N137E and cloudiness and patchy rain north of a line from 22N137E to 20N147E to 25N156E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Yap and Palau between 1N and 10N from 131E to 142E. A disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Chuuk and southwest of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 300 miles of a line from 8N148E to 1N161E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers south of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 4N169E to 5N174E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:25 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:57 AM	2:48 PM
Wednesday	2:38 AM	3:42 PM
Thursday	3:23 AM	4:38 PM
Friday	4:13 AM	5:38 PM
Saturday	5:09 AM	6:38 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 27, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Paper industry tests genetically altered trees

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The commercial paper industry's plans to plant forests of genetically altered eucalyptus trees in seven Southern states has generated more cries from critics worried that such a large introduction of a bioengineered nonnative plant could throw natural ecosystems out of whack.

ArborGen, a biotechnology venture affiliated with three large paper companies, got U.S. Department of Agriculture approval last month for field trials involving as many as 250,000 trees planted at 29 sites during the next few years. Much smaller lots of the genetically altered trees have been growing in some of the states for years.

Australian eucalyptus trees grow faster than native hardwoods and produce high-quality pulp perfect for paper production, but thus far, they have been able to thrive only in very warm climates. South Carolina-based ArborGen genetically altered the trees to withstand freezing temperatures, and the idea with the test forests is to see how far north they can now be grown.

The test sites will cover a total of about 300 acres in Florida, South Carolina, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Louisiana.

While genetically engineered crops such as corn and soybeans have become common, ArborGen's experiment marks the first large planting of designer trees in the United States. The company says plantations of hearty, faster-growing eucalyptus could produce more timber in a smaller area and allow conservation of natural forests.

But critics say that despite the USDA's assurance that the trees pose no environmental threat, not enough is known about their effect on natural surroundings.

"We have many reservations about it," said Neil J. Carman, a biologist who serves on the Sierra Club's genetic engineering committee. "We don't think the scientific evidence is in yet that says this is a good idea."

AP

This Nov. 11, 2008 photo released by ArborGen shows a field of genetically engineered eucalyptus trees in Sebring, Fla.

Anne Petermann, executive director of the activist group Global Justice Ecology Project, said eucalyptus trees are invasive, require vast amounts of water that could reduce groundwater levels, and increase the wildfire risk because they are so flammable.

"This is quite a dangerous tree to be mass planting," Petermann said.

But ArborGen CEO Barbara Wells said eucalyptus trees have not proven invasive in dozens of tropical countries where they are widely grown on plantations. Also, ArborGen genetically modified the trees to limit their ability to disperse seed and spread.

Although the new field trials will significantly increase the number of genetically engineered trees being grown, Wells called it "very confined research."

"The total is 300 acres, but when you're doing tree research, that really is very small acreage," she said, noting that about 20,000 acres of genetically unaltered eucalyptus trees are already grown in central and southern Florida for production of wood chips and mulch. The new test forests will show whether the genetically altered trees can thrive farther north in Florida, where freezing temperatures can occur in the winter.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

G-20 finance chiefs agree on need to curb deficits

BUSAN, South Korea (AP)—World financial leaders pledged Saturday to push ahead on curbing deficits and crafting financial reforms to safeguard the global recovery, including making banks bear much of the burden for government bailouts. As expected, the finance ministers and central banks gathered in this southern port city finessed what some said were at times heated differences over how to reshape financial regulation and build safety nets for countries stricken by debt crises. The Group of 20 welcomed measures taken by the European Union, the European Central Bank and the IMF, including a $1 trillion bailout, to help countries cope with the fallout from unsustainably high debt. "All of us have a strong interest in seeing those programs succeed in restoring confidence," U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told reporters after the meetings ended. Long-term, sustainable growth will depend on rebalancing growth, he said.

Oil extends losses to near $70 as stocks sink

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell to near $70 a barrel Monday in Asia, extending losses as regional stock markets sold-off amid fears Europe debt crisis is spreading. Benchmark crude for July delivery was down $1.20 to $70.31 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost $3.10 to settle at $71.51 on Friday. Oil traders often look to stock markets as a gauge of overall investor sentiment, and most Asian bourses plummeted Monday, extending a rout that began Friday with a 3.2 percent drop in the Dow Jones industrial average. Weak U.S. employment data for May and fresh fears that Hungary must slash government spending to avoid a debt default have undermined confidence in global economic growth and oil demand.

Asian markets tumble on fears over Hungary

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets tumbled Monday, dragged down by weak U.S. employment figures and fresh fears that Europe's debt crisis could spread as Hungary scrambled to calm worries that the nation is close to defaulting on its debts. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average plunged 396.95 points, or 4 percent, to 9,504.24 with investors also cautious before Japan's new leader, Naoto Kan, forms his Cabinet on Tuesday. South Korea's Kospi lost 2.6 percent to 1,621.67 while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was down 3.1 percent at 4,335.90. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 2.9 percent to 19,211.67. Benchmarks in mainland China, Singapore and Taiwan also fell sharply. Selling spread in Asia on fears that Europe's debt problems could spread after Hungarian officials said last week the nation was at risk of a Greek-style fiscal crisis.

BP chief won't quit over Gulf of Mexico spill

LONDON (AP)—BP PLC chief executive Tony Hayward said Sunday he won't step down over the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and predicted his company will recover from the disaster.

Hayward told BBC television's "Andrew Marr Show" that he would not quit, and he had the "absolute intention of seeing this through to the end."

"We are going to stop the leak. We're going to clean up the oil, we're going to remediate any environmental damage and we are going to return the Gulf coast to the position it was in prior to this event," Hayward said. "That's an absolute commitment, we will be there long after the media has gone, making good on our promises."

The executive said a containment cap placed on the blown-out well in the Gulf had collected about 10,000 barrels of oil over the last 24 hours, and that BP hope a second containment system will be in place by next weekend.

"When those two are in place, we would very much hope to be containing the vast majority of the oil," Hayward said. He said the new containment operation is designed to "be essentially hurricane proof."

AP

BP PLC CEO Tony Hayward asks members of the media to step back as he walks along Fourchon Beach in Port Fourchon, La., Monday, May 24, 2010.

Hayward said the spill was a one-in-100,000 to a one-in-a-million occurrence. "In this accident, based on what we understand so far, seven layers of protection were breached," he told the BBC.

But Hayward rejected claims that the incident showed oil companies were now operating beyond their technical capacity.

"That's of course a very valid concern," he said. "It's also worth just highlighting the industry has been exploring in the deep water for over twenty years and it has not had to contend with an incident of this sort before."

He said that "what has to happen on the part of the industry—and certainly BP—is to move safety standards to a completely different level."

The BP CEO has faced criticism over his response to the spill, particularly about a recently launched advertising campaign to promote the company's efforts to fix the damage caused.

President Barack Obama said the money would have been better spent on cleanup efforts, and on compensating fishermen and other small business owners affected by the incident.

Buffett hopes lunch auction again draws big bids

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Billionaire Warren Buffett always tries to make sure that anyone who's willing to make a seven-figure donation just to have lunch with the investor gets their money's worth, so the meals often last more than three hours.

Buffett

So far, so good.

"Nobody's asked for their money back," Buffett said.

The Berkshire Hathaway chairman and CEO said he hopes the annual lunch auction will again draw multimillion-dollar bids to benefit the Glide Foundation, which provides social services to the poor and homeless in San Francisco. But that's hard to predict, especially with more international interest—three of the past four winners came from outside the U.S.

"Some of these people I'd never heard of before they made the bid," Buffett said.

This year's auction was to start Sunday evening with a $25,000 minimum bid on eBay, but the final price of the meal won't be set until the auction closes Friday at 9:30 p.m. CDT. The date of the lunch will be determined later, once the winner is known and agrees with Buffett on a time.

Last year, Canadian investment firm Salida Capital paid $1.68 million to dine with Buffett. And that price represented a discount over the record $2.11 million a Chinese investment fund manager paid in 2008, which was the most expensive charity item eBay had ever sold.

Buffett's investment success and folksy wisdom have earned him a devoted following. Last month, 37,000 people attended Berkshire's annual meeting in Omaha.

But apart from his popularity, Buffett thinks the work of Glide has also moved bidders to pay astronomical prices for the lunch in previous years.

"They may like the lunch, but they care about where the money's going, too," Buffett said. "I would, too, if I were in their position."

Buffett knows a bit about philanthropy. He is giving away the bulk of his fortune over time. The plan he launched in 2006 will eventually split most of his shares of Berkshire stock between five charitable foundations, with the largest chunk going to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Nation

Gulf oil crisis could stretch into the fall

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A containment cap was capturing more and more of the crude pouring from a damaged oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, but that bit of hope was tempered Sunday by a sharp dose of pragmatism as the federal government's point man warned the crisis could stretch into the fall.

The inverted funnel-like cap is being closely watched for whether it can make a serious dent in the flow of new oil. Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, overseeing the government's response to the spill, reserved judgment, saying he didn't want to risk offering false encouragement.

The spill's harmful environmental effects also appeared to spread to Texas, with the government reporting Sunday that dead birds with oil on them were found for the first time in that state.

Allen warned on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the battle to contain the oil is likely to stretch into the fall. The cap will trap only so much of the oil, and relief wells being drilled won't be completed until August. In the meantime, oil will continue to spew out.

"But even after that, there will be oil out there for months to come," Allen said.

"This will be well into the fall. This is a siege across the entire Gulf. This spill is holding everybody hostage, not only economically but physically. And it has to be attacked on all fronts," he said.

Since it was placed over the busted well on Thursday, the cap has been siphoning an increasing amount of oil. On Saturday, it funneled about 441,000 gallons to a tanker on the surface, up from about 250,000 gallons it captured Friday.

But it's not clear how much is still escaping from the well that federal authorities at one point estimated was leaking between 500,000 gallons and 1 million gallons a day. Since the spill began nearly seven weeks ago, roughly 23 million to 49 million gallons of oil have leaked into the Gulf.

The spill has also caused an environmental crisis for the region. A wildlife report issued Sunday by the government command center in Robert, La., says that two dead birds with oil on them were found in Texas, but didn't elaborate on the circumstances. Officials at the command center could not immediately comment on the wildlife report late Sunday. Dozens of dead, oiled birds have been found in other Gulf states, the majority of them in Louisiana.

The prospect that the crisis could stretch beyond summer was devastating to residents along the Gulf, who are seeing thicker globs of oil show up in increasing volume all along the coastline.

In Ruth Dailey's condominium in Gulf Shores, Ala., floors already are smeared with dark blotches of oil, she said, and things are only going to get worse.

"This is just the beginning," she said. "I have a beachfront condo for a reason. With this, no one will want to come."

Kelcey Forrestier, 23, of New Orleans, said she no longer trusts the word of either BP or the U.S. government in laying out the extent of the spill. But it is clear to Forrestier, just coming in off the water at Okaloosa Island, Fla., that the spill and its damage will last long into the future.

"Oil just doesn't go away. Oil doesn't disappear," said Forrestier, who just earned a biology degree. "It has to go somewhere and it's going to come to the Gulf beaches."

BP chief executive Tony Hayward told the BBC on Sunday that he believed the cap was likely to capture "the majority, probably the vast majority" of the oil gushing from the well. The gradual increase in the amount being captured is deliberate, in an effort to prevent water from getting inside and forming a frozen slush that foiled a previous containment attempt.

Allen was reluctant to characterize the degree of progress, saying much more had to be done. "We need to underpromise and overdeliver," he said.

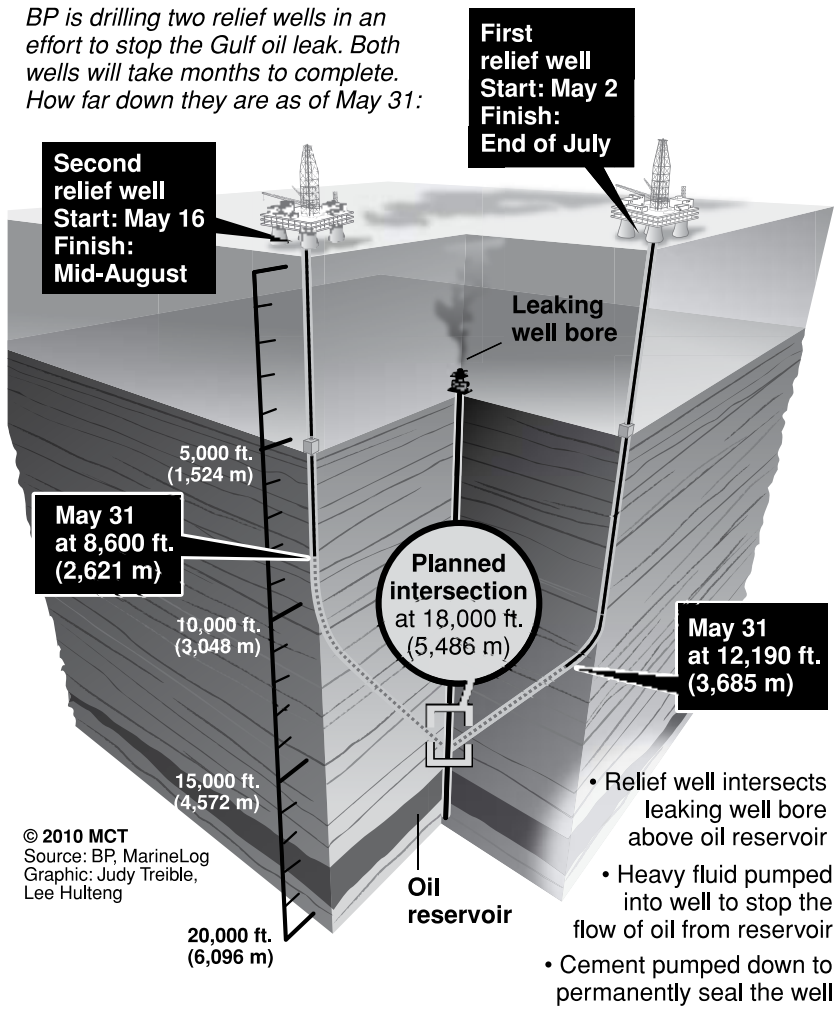
On Sunday, BP said it had closed one of four vents that are allowing oil to escape and preventing that water intake. The company said some of the remaining vents may remain open to keep the cap system stable.

Hayward told the BBC that the company hopes a second containment system will be in place by next weekend. Allen told CBS that the oil would stop flowing only when the existing well is plugged with cement once the relief wells have been completed.

Once the cap is fully operational, if it is ultimately successful, it could capture a maximum of 630,000 gallons of oil a day.

Progress of two relief wells

BP is drilling two relief wells in an effort to stop the Gulf oil leak. Both wells will take months to complete. How far down they are as of May 31:


First relief well
Start: May 2
Finish: End of July
Second relief well
Start: May 16
Finish: Mid-August
Leaking well bore
5,000 ft. (1,524 m)
May 31 at 8,600 ft. (2,621 m)
Planned intersection at 18,000 ft. (5,486 m)
May 31 at 12,190 ft. (3,685 m)
10,000 ft. (3,048 m)
15,000 ft. (4,572 m)
20,000 ft. (6,096 m)
Oil reservoir
• Relief well intersects leaking well bore above oil reservoir
• Heavy fluid pumped into well to stop the flow of oil from reservoir
• Cement pumped down to permanently seal the well
© 2010 MCT
Source: BP, MarineLog
Graphic: Judy Treible, Lee Hulteng

Ohio tornado kills 7, wrecks cop cars, graduation

MILLBURY, Ohio (AP)—A tornado unleashed a "war zone" of destruction in northwest Ohio, destroying dozens of homes and an emergency services building as a line of storms killed at least seven people and threatened to do more damage Sunday as it hit the Northeast.

Storms collapsed a movie-theater roof in Illinois and ripped siding off a building at a Michigan nuclear plant, forcing a shutdown. But most of the worst was reserved for a 100-yard-wide, 7-mile-long strip southeast of Toledo now littered with wrecked vehicles, splintered wood and family possessions.

The tornado ripped the roof and back wall off Lake High School's gymnasium about 11 p.m. Saturday, several hours before the graduation ceremony was supposed to begin there. The school board president said one of the victims was the father of the class valedictorian.

Two buses were tossed on their sides and another was thrown about 50 yards, landing on its top near the high school's football field. More than 10 hours later, its right turn signal was still blinking.

Lake Township Police Chief Mark Hummer flew over the damaged area and said at least 50 homes were destroyed and another 50 severely damaged, as well as six commercial buildings. The storm fell over an area of farm fields and light industry, narrowly missing the heavily populated suburbs on the southern edge of Toledo.

"It's a war zone," Hummer said. "It's pretty disheartening."

Hummer said Sunday afternoon all buildings had been searched and everyone was accounted for. Rescuers were searching a wooded area and a field near the worst hit portion of town as a precaution.

AP

School buses are shown after being tossed by a tornado in the parking lot of damaged Lake High School in Lake Township, Ohio Sunday, June 6, 2010.

The tornado turned a township police and emergency medical services building into a mishmash of 2-by-4 framing and pink insulation. Hummer was talking to a police dispatcher by phone when the storm hit.

"She started saying, 'The building is shaking,' and then another dispatcher came on and said, 'The roof just blew off," he said.

The storm ripped off most of the building's back half and wrapped part of the metal roof around a tree. At least six police vehicles—half the township's fleet—were destroyed, and one car was tossed into the spot where the building once stood.

The storm knocked out emergency services for a short time, and all the emergency dispatchers and 911 operators had to be moved to a nearby town.

"When the people who are supposed to help you are victims of the storm, it does take you a minute to catch your breath," Hummer said.

Those killed included a person outside the police department and a motorist, Hummer said. He said a young child and two other victims were from nearby Millbury, a bedroom community of roughly 1,200 about 10 miles southeast of Toledo. Hummer said two other people died at hospitals but he did not have details.

ACROSS THE NATION

NJ men accused of trying to join Somali terrorists

ELMWOOD PARK, N.J. (AP)—They were recorded talking jihad against their fellow Americans. But they hadn't talked the jihadists into accepting them. When the two New Jersey men tried to fly out of New York's Kennedy Airport in hopes of getting terror training in Somalia, investigators who had been following them for years were waiting for each of them at the gate, officials said Sunday. Mohamed Mahmood Alessa, 20, and Carlos Eduardo Almonte, 26, were arrested Saturday before they could board separate flights to Egypt and then continue on to Somalia, federal officials in New Jersey and the New York Police Department said. They are the latest of several U.S. Muslims accused of joining or trying to join terrorist groups, radicalized with help from fellow Americans preaching violent jihad over the Internet. Authorities say they recorded Alessa and Almonte talking about attacking Americans. Alessa allegedly said he would outdo Maj. Nidal Hasan, the Army psychiatrist accused of killing 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas, last year.

Search for Ore. boy who vanished from school grows

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Detectives hunting for clues in the disappearance of a 7-year-old Oregon boy interviewed some 200 of his classmates and their parents Sunday as the FBI joined an expanding search. Kyron Horman vanished sometime after after his stepmother left him at his Portland elementary school on Friday morning. The boy and his stepmother, Terri Moulton Horman, attended a science fair at the school early Friday, and she last saw him walking down a hallway toward his 2nd grade classroom at about 8:45 a.m. He was wearing a "CSI" T-shirt and dark cargo pants. Police said Kyron did not return home on the bus as scheduled. The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office was contacted at about 4 p.m., and authorities have been searching the school and the surrounding area since then. Sheriff Dan Staton said late Sunday night that he was "not prepared" to call the boy's disappearance a kidnapping and there were no suspects at this time.

Man's bomb comment delays Fla.-bound flight in NY

RONKONKOMA, N.Y. (AP)—An airport official says a man "made a comment about a bomb" on a flight from Chicago to New York's MacArthur Airport, forcing passengers to get off the plane while authorities inspected the aircraft. No devices were found. The man was taken into custody after the Sunday afternoon incident on Southwest Airlines Flight 373, a Boeing 737 carrying 137 passengers and five crew members. MacArthur Airport Commissioner Teresa Rizzuto says charges are still pending. Southwest Airlines spokeswoman Olga Romero says the suspect made the comment to a flight attendant while deplaning.

Asia

Tropical storm hits Pakistan's largest city; 7 die

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A tropical storm lashed Pakistan's coast with torrential rains and heavy winds Sunday, damaging mud houses and submerging roads in the country's largest city. Seven people were electrocuted in floodwaters, officials said.

Authorities feared worse flooding was to come in and around Karachi and tried to evacuate people from their homes elsewhere along the country's southern coastline. Some villagers refused to move, but several thousand people shifted to higher ground, said Hamal Kalmati, a government minister in Baluchistan province.

He said many mud houses in Gawadar and Pasni districts had already collapsed.

The storm made landfall late Sunday to the east of Karachi, bringing winds as high as 50 miles (80 kilometers) per hour. The meteorological department said ocean storm surges of between 2 and 4 meters were likely in Karachi and other coastal towns.

The storm was forecast to lose strength as it moved inland. Originally of cyclone strength, Tropical Storm Phet hit Oman on Friday, killing at least two people and causing widespread flooding.

In Karachi, hours of rain left roads under more than one foot (30 centimeters) of water. Electricity was cut in many districts in the mostly low-lying city of 18 million people.

Many parts of Karachi and other towns along Pakistan's coast are desperately poor. Roads, bridges, houses and drainage systems are already in bad condition, making them vulnerable to high winds, heavy rain and rough seas.

The heavy rains were welcomed by some residents in Karachi, which is baking in the summer heat.

"Let the storm come. We are not afraid," said Saeed Ali, a 17-year student who was playing cricket on a normally busy street. "We rarely get rain in summer. This is a golden moment."

AP

A child walks through flood waters caused by torrential rains outside his home in Karachi, Pakistan, Sunday, June 6, 2010. An

ASIAN BRIEFS

Security high for China's college entrance exams

BEIJING (AP)—Police, security guards and volunteers manned test venues Monday as high-stakes college entrance exams began across China following a string of deadly attacks on schoolchildren. Seventeen youngsters were killed and more than 50 wounded in five major assaults in the last two months. They were unrelated and carried out by lone attackers, three of whom had histories of mental illness. Tens of thousands of paramilitary police have been deployed across the country to enforce security during testing, China National Radio reported. At one middle school in Beijing, a half-dozen police guarded the front gate as hundreds of students and their parents milled outside waiting for the venue to open.

RP militants kill 2 more villagers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim militants killed two villagers after fatally shooting three hostages, apparently to avenge the deaths of comrades in a government assault in the southern Philippines, a military commander said Sunday. The bodies of the hostages and the villagers were found separately Saturday by residents in a mountainous hinterland near Sumisip township on Basilan island, where the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group has long been blamed for kidnappings, bombings and other attacks, Rear Adm. Alex Pama said. Despite years of U.S.-backed offensives, nearly 400 Abu Sayyaf fighters have survived in Basilan and on nearby Jolo island and the Zamboanga peninsula. They remain a major security concern as part of a decades-long Muslim insurgency. The Abu Sayyaf, founded in Basilan in 1991, is believed by U.S. and Philippine security officials to have received funds and training from Osama bin Laden's network.

Bridge collapse kills 8 children in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Eight children died when a suspension bridge collapsed in western Indonesia over the weekend, officials said Monday. Rescuers were searching for five others still missing. Dozens of people were on the bridge in Aceh province watching a traditional ceremony intended to ward off disasters when it collapsed in six-feet (two-meter) high floodwaters triggered by heavy rains, said National Disaster Management Agency spokesman Priyadi Kardono. Eight children between the ages of 6 and 13 were killed in Sunday's disaster, said Muhammad Yusuf, chief of Aih Ilang village. Seasonal downpours cause annual flash flooding in Indonesia, a vast archipelago of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile flood plains.

New Japan PM affirms US ties in call with Obama

Naoto Kan

Prime minister of Japan

Early years

Born 1946 in Ube City, Yamaguchi Prefecture in western Japan

Education Degree in physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology

Road to power

1980 After three failed attempts, elected to lower house of parliament

1996 Rose to prominence when as health minister he forced the release of documents showing that the government had failed to block the use of HIV-infected blood products for transfusions

1998 Resigned after admitting he had failed to make payments into the state pension program

2003 Made a comeback, establishing himself and his party, the Democratic Party of Japan, as the main opposition, only to resign again the next year

January 2010 Chosen as finance minister, as well as deputy prime minister; said his priority was to stimulate growth

June 2010 Elected prime minister

Strong personality

• Known as "Fretful Kan" for his allegedly short temper; plays the difficult Japanese game of Go

© 2010 MCT
Source: BBC, People's Daily (China), MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's new prime minister made his diplomatic debut Sunday in a telephone call with President Barack Obama, reaffirming his country's alliance with Washington and promising to work hard on an agreement to relocate a contentious U.S. Marine base.

Naoto Kan, a straight-talking populist, was elected prime minister Friday, replacing Yukio Hatoyama who stepped down last week after breaking a campaign promise to move the Marine base off the southern island of Okinawa.

Kan told Obama that relations with Washington are a "cornerstone" of Japan's diplomacy and vowed to "further deepen and develop the Japan-U.S. alliance to tackle global and regional challenges," Japan's Foreign Ministry said.

He also promised Obama to "make a strenuous effort" to tackle the relocation of Marine Air Station Futenma, it said.

Under an agreement signed last month between the two governments, the base is to be moved to a less-crowded part of Okinawa, but Kan faces intense opposition from island residents who want it moved off Okinawa completely, as Hatoyama had promised. Because their opposition is so intense, some analysts have questioned whether the plan can actually be carried out.

A White House statement did not mention Futenma, saying "the two leaders agreed to work very closely together" and consult on the nuclear programs in North Korea and Iran. An administration official added the leaders "hit it off well on a personal level."

The Futenma issue is just one of many tough challenges facing Kan, whose foremost mission is to win back voters disgusted by Hatoyama's broken promise and the corrupt image instilled by party heavyweight Ichiro Ozawa, who also resigned last week from the party's No. 2 post.

Kan spent the weekend crafting his Cabinet, which he plans to formally announce early this week. He told reporters that he had asked Reform Minister Yukio Edano to become the party's deputy leader, in an apparent attempt to distance himself from Ozawa's influence and corrupt image.

Japanese media reports said Sunday that key ministers from the Hatoyama Cabinet, including Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada and Defense Minister Yoshimi Kitazawa, are likely to be retained.

Kan's Democratic Party of Japan swept to power just nine months ago, trouncing the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party amid high hopes for change and more government accountability. But public opinion quickly soured after Hatoyama became ensnared in a political funding scandal and reneged on his campaign promise on the Futenma issue, while Ozawa was implicated in a separate funding scandal.

Unlike the blue-blooded Hatoyama, Kan comes from an ordinary family and received his political start in civic activism. He's known for speaking his mind and gained popularity in the 1990s for exposing a government cover-up of HIV-tainted blood products.

Afghan interior, intel chiefs replaced over attack

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Sunday removed two of the country's top security officials—each with longtime ties to American forces—over last week's attack on a national conference to explore peace with the Taliban.

The removals of the interior minister and intelligence chief surprised U.S. officials and may cause major disruption within Afghanistan's intelligence and security establishment at a critical juncture—as the U.S. and NATO escalate the war and the Afghan government commits to offering peace to the insurgents. The move is likely to fuel speculation over differences within the Karzai administration over its efforts to reconcile with the Taliban—including the possible release of hundreds of detained militant suspects.

The head of the National Directorate of Security, Amrullah Saleh, was a senior figure in the Northern Alliance that helped the U.S. oust the Taliban regime in 2001. As a young man, Interior Minister Hanif Atmar served in Afghanistan's Communist-era intelligence agency and fought mujahedeen opposed to the Soviet occupation.

"It's a very significant event. There will be a massive fall-out from these resignations both in the Interior Ministry and the NDS as alliances are shuffled," said Candace Rondeaux, senior analyst on Afghanistan for the International Crisis Group think tank.

"They appear to be forced resignations, and reflect significant worries of Karzai's administration over the loyalty of those leading key security agencies in the country," she said.

Replacing the security chiefs comes after Karzai's May visit to Washington which had eased strains in the bilateral relationship. U.S. officials say the Afghan delegation had impressed with their preparations for the visit, widely seen as a boost to Karzai after a turbulent year marred by prolonged controversy over his re-election in a fraud-marred poll last August.

"Both the ministers of interior and intelligence are people we admire and whose service we appreciate," Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said. He also noted the U.S. had favored Atmar for the interior ministry job.

But Gen. Stanley McChrystal, commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, said in a statement he respected the Afghan president's authority to make this "difficult decision."

World

Defiant Israel says activists prepared to fight

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister claimed Sunday that the Turkish activists who battled Israeli naval commandos in a deadly clash last week prepared for the fight ahead of time, before boarding the ship in a different city from the rest of the passengers.

Benjamin Netanyahu's charges highlight Israel's frantic efforts to portray the activists as terrorists and counter a wave of harsh international condemnation that has left the Jewish state isolated and at odds with some of its closest allies.

Last Monday's operation, in which nine activists were killed aboard a ship headed to the blockaded Gaza Strip, damaged Israel's ties with Turkey—its main Muslim ally—and brought heavy pressure on Israel to lift the 3-year closure of Hamas-ruled Gaza.

Netanyahu told his Cabinet that "dozens of thugs" from "an extremist, terrorism-supporting" organization had readied themselves for the arrival of the naval commandos.

"This group boarded separately in a different city, organized separately, equipped itself separately and went on deck under different procedures," he said. "The clear intent of this hostile group was to initiate a violent clash with (Israeli) soldiers."

AP

Israelis wave flags in support of Israel as they gather in Ashkelon, southern Israel, Sunday, June 6, 2010.

Late Sunday, Netanyahu's office released a statement saying he discussed the international criticism with world leaders, including Vice President Joe Biden, the president of France and the premier of Canada. Netanyahu told them any country would act in self defense if it were targeted by thousands of rockets as Israel has been by Gaza militants.

Videos released by the military have shown a crowd of men attacking several naval commandos as they landed on a ship from a helicopter, beating the soldiers with clubs and other objects and hurling one soldier overboard.

The military has displayed pictures of knives, slingshots and metal rods confiscated from the activists, and used video seized from security cameras—and reporters—on board the ship show a group of young men brandishing clubs and other weapons ahead of the arrival of the soldiers. The use of video confiscated from journalists has drawn sharp criticism from the Foreign Press Association in Israel, which demanded the military stop using the footage.

Crowded agenda awaits Clinton in Latin America

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton flew to Latin America and the Caribbean with a crowded agenda awaiting: lingering tensions over last year's coup in Honduras, U.S. immigration policy, security issues and concerns over Iran and the Middle East.

Clinton arrived in Lima late Sunday on her seventh trip to the region as the top U.S. diplomat. Her schedule includes an Organization of American States meeting in Peru as well as later stops in Ecuador, Colombia and Barbados.

At all points, officials say, she will stress the Obama administration's commitment to the Western Hemisphere and support for democracy.

The most contentious topic facing the OAS—whether to readmit Honduras to the regional bloc—isn't on the agenda at Monday's annual OAS General Assembly in Lima. But it will loom large over the discussions, with the U.S. at odds with numerous other member countries on the matter.

The U.S. wants Honduras allowed back into the organization following elections that brought the current president, Porfirio Lobo, to power after the June 2009 coup that ousted his predecessor, Manuel Zelaya. Other governments, notably Brazil, Venezuela and Nicaragua, are opposed and insist that Zelaya be allowed to return home first.

"President Lobo has done everything he has said he would do," Clinton told reporters Sunday. "He has been very committed to pursuing a policy of reintegration."

Arturo Valenzuela, assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, acknowledged Friday that "there are continuing concerns over human rights violations in Honduras and that certain steps still need to be taken in order to bring about a process of national reconciliation."

Also of great concern in Latin America is Arizona's new immigration law, which some believe will lead to racial profiling. While this, too, is not on the formal agenda, Clinton probably will get an earful about it from her colleagues even though President Barack Obama has said the law is "poorly conceived" and "not the right way to go."

Vatican says world ignores Christians in Middle East

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—The Vatican said Sunday that the international community is ignoring the plight of Christians in the Middle East, and that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the war in Iraq and political instability in Lebanon have forced thousands to flee the region.

A working paper released during Pope Benedict XVI's pilgrimage to Cyprus to prepare for a crisis summit of Middle East bishops in Rome in October also cites the "extremist current" unleashed by the rise of "political Islam" as a threat to Christians.

The paper said that the line between religion and politics is blurred in Muslim countries, "relegating Christians to the precarious position of being considered non-citizens, despite the fact that they were citizens of their countries long before the rise of Islam

"The key to harmonious living between Christians and Muslims is to recognize religious freedom and human rights," it said In his final Mass in Cyprus on Sunday, Benedict said he was praying that the October meeting will focus the attention of the international community "on the plight of those Christians in the Middle East who suffer for their beliefs."

He appealed for an "urgent and concerted international effort to resolve the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, especially in the Holy Land, before such conflicts lead to greater bloodshed."

The Vatican considers mostly Greek Orthodox Cyprus as a bridge between Europe and the Middle East and invited bishops to come to the Mediterranean island to receive the working paper.

The pope said Cyprus can "play a particular role in promoting dialogue and cooperation" in the region.

Van der Sloot seeks own lawyer in Peru murder case

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Joran van der Sloot will spend all week at criminal police headquarters being questioned in the death of a 21-year-old Lima woman and has asked to be able to hire his own lawyer, authorities said Sunday.

The Dutchman, who is also the prime suspect in U.S. teen Natalee Holloway's 2005 disappearance in Aruba, is being held in a seventh-floor cell with a bunk bed and blanket and gets three hot meals a day, said Maj. Jose Gamboa, spokesman for the Peruvian national police.

Van der Sloot is suspected in the May 30 killing—five years to the day after Holloway's disappearance—of Stephany Flores, a business student who police say he met playing poker at a casino.

Police released video Saturday taken by security cameras at the hotel where van der Sloot had been staying since arriving from Colombia on May 14. It shows the two entering van der Sloot's room together and the Dutchman leaving alone four hours later.

AP

This image from security footage provided by the Lima police alledgedly shows Joran van der Sloot, left, and Stephany Flores as they enter his hotel room May 30, 2010.

The woman's battered body was found on the room's floor more than two days later, her neck broken. Van der Sloot had by then crossed into Chile, where he was arrested Thursday.

In video taken of the husky 22-year-old Dutchman that was broadcast Sunday by a TV channel, Peruvian police search van der Sloot's belongings in his presence.

They pull out of his backpack a laptop, a business-card holder and 15 bills in foreign currency. Van der Sloot tells police the money includes Thai, Cambodian and Bolivian currency. He is asked for credit cards and documents and appears to say—his Spanish is very rudimentary—that they are in a hotel room back in Chile.

WORLD BRIEFS

Swiss police chase escaped elephant through Zurich

ZURICH (AP)—Swiss police say an elephant that escaped from a circus and wandered through Zurich's banking and commercial district has been recaptured. City police spokesman Michael Wirz says officers chased the elephant through the city for an hour until a keeper was able to control the animal and bring it to safety. He says nobody was hurt and there were no reports of damage following Sunday's escapade. Niklaus Leuenberger, a spokesman for the Knie circus, tells The Associated Press that Sabu the elephant got loose as she was about to be loaded onto a trailer. He says her stroll through the city included a brief dip in Lake Zurich.

Millions of gays demand rights during Brazil march

SAO PAULO (AP)—Millions of gays and lesbians have jammed several of Sao Paulo's main avenues for the 14th annual gay pride parade in South America's largest city. Dancing to music blasting from sound trucks Sunday, they condemned homophobia and demanded equal rights for homosexuals. They also said they would push candidates in this year Brazil's presidential election to support their cause. A river of gay men, lesbians, cross dressers and even heterosexual couples flowed down skyscraper-lined Avenida Paulista in what is billed as the world's biggest gay pride parade. Organizers expected about 3.2 million people, but will not release a tally until Monday. Police have not provided a crowd estimate. The event has become a huge tourist draw.

Mexico: 6 bodies in cave, 3 with hearts cut out

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—Police discovered six dead bodies in a cavern near the tourist resort of Cancun on Sunday, three of them cut open and their hearts removed. Authorities are investigating the identities of the four men and two women found dead in the natural cave, said Francisco Alor, the Quintana Roo state attorney general. "They were apparently tortured and their chests were opened to remove the hearts," Alor's office said later in a statement. Three of the bodies had the letter "Z" carved on their abdomens—a possible reference to the Zeta drug gang, though officials did not make an explicit connection to cartel violence that has plagued many parts of Mexico.

Focus

In this photo taken Friday, May 28, 2010, a woman sweeps grain kept for drying near a paddy field in Mayong village, about 50 kilometers (31 miles) east of Gauhati, India. Across the developing world, families from Pakistan to Argentina to Congo are being battered by a double-digit surge in food costs that is fueling political tensions and forcing some to give up eating meat, fruit and even basics such as tomatoes.

AP PHOTO/ANUPAM NATH

Surging costs hit food security in poorer nations

By JOE McDONALD
AP BUSINESS WRITER

The global food crisis that dominated headlines in 2008 quickly faded in the U.S. and other rich countries. Not so across the developing world where surging inflation has made scraping to afford the next meal a grim daily reality.

Families from Pakistan to Argentina to Congo are being battered by double-digit rises in the food prices that are dragging more people into poverty, fueling political tensions and forcing some to give up eating meat, fruit and even tomatoes.

With food consuming up to 70 percent of family income in the poorest countries, rising prices are squeezing household budgets and threatening to worsen malnutrition, while inflation stays moderate in the United States and Europe. Compounding the problem in many countries: prices hardly fell from their peaks in 2008, when global food prices jumped in part due to a smaller U.S. wheat harvest and demand for crops to use in biofuels

Majeedan Begum, a Pakistani mother of five, said a bag of flour for bread, the staple of her family's diet, costs three times what it did two years ago in her hometown of Multan. She can no longer afford meat or fruit.

"My domestic budget has been ruined," said Begum, 35.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's food price index—which includes grains, meat, dairy and other items in 90 countries—was up 22 percent in March from a year earlier though still below 2008 levels. In some Asian markets, rice and wheat prices are 20 to 70 percent above 2008 levels, it says.

Many governments blame dry weather and high fuel costs but critics in countries such as India, Argentina and Egypt say misguided policies are making shortages worse and collusion by suppliers might be pushing up prices.

No single factor explains the inflation gap between developing and developed countries but poorer economies are more vulnerable to an array of problems that can push up prices, and many are cropping up this year.

Farmers with less land and irrigation are hit harder by drought and floods. Civil war and other conflicts can disrupt supplies. Prices in import-dependent economies spike up when the local currency weakens, as Pakistan's rupee has this year.

Costs also have been pushed up by a rebound in global commodity prices, especially for soy destined for Asian consumption. That has prompted a shift in Argentina and elsewhere to produce more for export, which has led to local shortages of beef and other food. The global financial crisis hurt food production in some countries by making it harder for farmers to get credit for seed and supplies.

AP PHOTO/ANJUM NAVEED

In this picture taken on May 18, 2010, vendors and customers occupy a wholesale fruit and vegetable market in Islamabad, Pakistan.

In Mauritania in West Africa, rice prices doubled over the first three months of the year, according to the World Food Program. Over the same period, the price of corn rose 59 percent in Zimbabwe and 57 percent in neighboring Mozambique.

In Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mami Monga pays $25 for a box of fish that cost $10 a year ago. The price of a 25-kilogram bag of rice has doubled to $30.

"Today I am obliged to buy half the food I used to buy mid-last year," said Mami, a mother of five.

Kinshasa shopkeeper Abedi Patelli said prices rise when the exchange rate of Congo's currency falls. "But when our currency improves against the U.S. dollar, prices don't fall," he said. "They remain steady."

WFP spokesman Greg Barrow said poorer countries can suffer a "ratchet effect" that locks in price rises due to high transportation costs and limited competition.

"Prices dropped fairly dramatically toward the end of 2008 on international markets but we found prices remained relatively high in many local markets in developing countries," said Barrow.

After the cost of food rises, "it tends to take a long time to go down," he said.

The FAO said the double blow of the global recession and high food prices has pushed 100 million people into poverty.

Opposition parties have organized protests in Pakistan. In Egypt, a 50 percent jump in meat prices in recent weeks has helped to fuel demonstrations outside parliament over wages and other economic issues.

"I am afraid that I will wake up one day and not able to get enough bread for my 12-member family," said Aboulella Moussa, a doorman at a Cairo apartment building.

People interviewed in a number of countries said they are coping not just by cutting out expensive items but by eating less—a trend that has stirred concern about malnutrition.

In the 2008 inflation spike, WFP found families in some countries skipped meals or switched to eating corn husks or other low-quality produce. "Over the long term, this would lead to the effects of chronic malnutrition," Barrow said.

"It's expensive, so we eat less," said Seema Valmiki, 35, who is raising three children in New Delhi with her husband on his 6,000-rupee ($135) monthly income as a driver.

Valmiki can no longer afford meat, fruit or fish and has put off buying her children new school uniforms, toys and a bicycle.

"If we buy them fruit, we can't buy them food" like rice, dal and vegetables, she said.

In China, food costs rose 5.9 percent in April over a year ago—a modest rate for a country that suffered 20 percent-plus inflation in 2008. But it was enough to prompt the communist government to try to reassure the public with pledges that prices will ease as the spring harvest comes in. It also threatened to punish price gouging in a new effort to cool inflation.

Even in moderately prosperous nations such as Venezuela, shoppers say they can no longer afford meat and scour markets for bargains.

In Argentina, soy production has taken over more than 32 million acres (13 million hectares) of grassland once used to raise cattle and replaced less profitable wheat and corn as well, driving up prices in supermarkets.

Argentina's government has responded with higher taxes, export limits, controls on supermarket prices of meat, wheat and corn, subsidies to food producers and pay hikes of 30 percent for union workers. The moves have temporarily eased the pain but beef producers have thinned their herds in response to government intervention and the price of meat has doubled in the last year.

"Before, we would eat meat three times a week. Now it's once, with luck," said Marta Esposito, a 45-year-old mother of two in Buenos Aires. "Tomatoes, don't even talk about it. We eat whatever is the cheapest."

Venezuela's 30.4 percent inflation is among the world's highest. The oil-rich country is a major food importer and its bolivar has tumbled against the dollar, forcing up prices in local markets. In April, food prices rose 11 percent over the previous month.

The Venezuelan government has imposed price controls and arrested some shopkeepers for violating them. But the controls have led to shortages of beef, sugar, corn meal and butter, forcing the government to allow some prices to rise by 20 percent this year.

Elsewhere, rising prices highlight a more basic problem: making sure farm productivity keeps pace with burgeoning populations.

India's food prices were up 17 percent in April over a year earlier but the government hopes normal rainfall this growing season will increase supplies. The rise has been driven in part by growing demand from the rural poor, who can afford to spend more on food thanks to government debt-relief and job-creation programs.

Longer term, experts say India, with more than 1 billion people, has to speed up growth in farm production if it is to keep up with demand.

"Our capacity to feed every Indian is systematically declining with time," said Harsh Mander, who was appointed by India's Supreme Court to monitor hunger. "World markets can't bail us out."

AP Business Writer Erika Kinetz in Mumbai, researcher Bonnie Cao in Beijing and Associated Press Writers Debora Rey in Buenos Aires, Salah Nasrawi in Cairo, Sebastian Abbot in Islamabad, Fabiola Sanchez in Caracas, Patrice Chitera in Kinshasa and Tran Van Minh in Hanoi contributed to this report.

Overdrive

2011 Mustang trims gas use, pumps up power

By SUSAN CARPENTER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—The Ford Mustang is ubiquitous. More than 9 million have been manufactured over the last 47 years, driven by generations of owners, including my mechanic's son, my neighbor's daughter, even my very own mother.

But none are quite like the 2011 version, which got a radical and somewhat unusual update for a muscle car. It simultaneously ramps up the performance and the fuel economy.

Like any redo worth the R&D money, the aluminum 5.0-liter V-8 is all new and outfitted with twin independent variable camshaft timing, allowing the car to offer a triptych of benefits. In addition to a 7 percent improvement in horsepower (it now cranks out 412) and a 5 percent gain in torque (to 390 pound-feet), the continuous overlap adjustments of intake and exhaust valves also boost fuel economy by as much as 4.5 percent.

To enhance those miles-per-gallon improvements, Ford engineers didn't just look under the hood. They headed into the wind tunnel to find—and eradicate—fuel-sapping drag. Some of the biggest culprits were the tire wells, which got additional spats. The air dam just below the front bumper and the seal on the rear deck also were modified for improved aerodynamics without compromising any of the sculptural musculature that has made the Mustang one of the most beloved, and preserved, cars in history.

Bottom line: The manual-transmission GT now boasts an EPA rating of 26 mpg on the highway, a 3-mpg gain over the 2010 version.

One could argue that someone in the market for an American hot rod wouldn't care about saving pennies at the pump. But Ford research revealed that the No. 1 reason buyers turned down this pony car in favor of perfunctory mules such as the Nissan Altima or Honda Accord was fuel economy, not the Mustang's $32,845 base price.

The trouble with touting the Mustang as a gas miser is that the only way drivers will save fuel is by drafting a big rig. That's because the GT is, first and foremost, a performance vehicle that unleashes a primitive need for speed. If you ride it the way I did, redlining at 7 grand and slamming the neck of my passenger into the headrest, you'll be lucky to get the 13.6 mpg I managed whipping this wild horse through Southern California's finest canyons.

That kind of fun is a big reason why about a quarter of all Mustangs ever made are still on the road. The 2011 will probably continue that trend, outfitted as it is for the first time with a sixth gear, in both the automatic and manual transmission versions of the car. I drove both types: The automatic had enough torque to prompt heart palpitations the first time I gunned it down a drag strip, and the manual was aggressive enough that the colleague in my passenger seat felt the need to remind me that I'm the mother of a 7-year-old.

While my friend was fearing for his life, I was confident enough in the GT's electronic power steering assist and its stabilizer-bar-enhanced, road-hugging rear suspension to push my skills. Suffice it to say that the telephone poles are still intact along Encinal Canyon Road, and I made it home, as promised, to prepare a quesadilla for my son.

Among the 2011 Mustang's safety features are new blind-spot mirrors embedded in the upper outside corners of the power side views to help GT drivers see cars sneaking up beside them to challenge with motors gunning. More electronically evolved safety features include MyKey, a factory option that allows parents of Mustang-driving teens to control their cars' top speed and radio volume to raise the odds of their kids returning home in one piece. Ford's optional communication and entertainment system, known as Sync, allows drivers to gab on their phones hands-free, to access 911 automatically in an accident and to pull traffic, directions and other information from the computing cloud.

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: $32,845
Price, as tested: $40,160
Powertrain: 5.0-liter, V-8, DOHC, four valves per cylinder, twin independent variable camshaft timing, six-speed manual
Horsepower: 412 at 6,500 rpm
Torque: 390 pound-feet at 4,250 rpm
Curb weight: 3,720 pounds
Fuel economy: 17 city/26 highway

The 2011 Ford Mustang GT Coupe is a 5-litre V-8 that simultaneously ramped up the horsepower and the mpg rating.
MCT

Study details methods to boost vehicles' efficiency, at a price

By JUSTIN HYDE
DETROIT FREE PRESS

WASHINGTON—A long-delayed federal report on future technology for making vehicles more efficient finds several options that could boost mileage by 50 percent but add up to $9,000 to the cost of a new vehicle.

The study by the National Academies of Science was supposed to be released in 2008, but took longer than expected and was outpaced by Congress, the Obama administration and California officials as they set new fuel economy standards. The government has set a target for new U.S. vehicles to average 34.1 mpg by 2016, with reductions in carbon emissions raising the requirement to 35.5 mpg.

The panel found that based on a 2007 vehicle, available technology could boost a typical gasoline engine's efficiency by 29 percent at a cost of $2,200. Switching to diesel engines would offer a 37 percent increase for $5,900 per vehicle, while a hybrid could offer up to a 50 percent improvement for $9,000.

Many of the technologies listed in the report have already been adopted to some degree by automakers, who are rolling out 2011 model year vehicles now and are close to completing engineering work through the 2013 year.

The study also considered more exotic technology, such as plug-in hybrids and homogenous charge combustion, where gasoline engines use diesel-type compression rather than a spark for ignition. But it said beyond a five-year window, forecasting what technology would work best for the lowest cost was too difficult.

It also recommended that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rework window stickers on new vehicles to give fuel consumption figures—such as gallons burned per 100 miles travelled—in addition to traditional fuel economy numbers, so that owners know more about how much fuel they use.

'Dribbling basketball' sound could be differential issue

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 2000 Nissan Frontier pickup truck with the 3.3-liter engine. It has about 65,000 miles on it, and I'm getting poor gas mileage. The vehicle is rated for 19 miles per gallon on the highway, but I can't seem to get more than 16 mpg on the highway.

My son-in-law speculates that the knock sensor thinks the engine is running too lean and sends a message to the fuel injection system to richen the fuel mixture. The vehicle also is hard to start in the morning and I can sometimes smell gasoline. I tried higher-octane gas but still no mileage improvement. Do you agree?

ANSWER: Your son-in-law has described the function of the knock sensor correctly, but I don't think that's the problem. An open or shorted knock sensor would be identified by a P0325 fault code, and the sensor can be checked for proper resistance out-of-circuit with a simple ohmmeter. I'd be more inclined to check for a leaking fuel pressure regulator, faulty temperature sensor or even a failed canister control valve.

■■■

Q: I have a 2005 Acura MDX with 82,000 miles. It makes an unusual noise when turning or going over cobblestone pavement. The noise seems to come from the front of the car and now the back. It sounds like a basketball dribbling—something bouncing. I suspect it has something to do with the tires or suspension. We recently had all of the motor mounts replaced and just had the tires inspected and rotated but still hear the bouncing sound.

A: If a careful inspection of suspension and steering components—specifically the shocks/struts and stabilizer links—doesn't identify the problem, check your service records to see if the differential lubricant was changed at 15,000, 30,000 and 60,000 miles as recommended by Acura. The noise may be a ratcheting or juddering from the rear differential due to contaminated fluid, as outlined in Acura bulletin 04-023.

■■■

Q: I have a 2007 Ford Expedition with 65,000 miles on it. When I brake for a slow corner and then step on the throttle, it hesitates. Instinctively, I give it more throttle, the hesitation ends and the truck leaps forward faster than I intended. At other times in stop-and-go traffic, it feels like the hesitation just before the transmission downshifts as you start up a hill. My mechanic thinks it could be a mechanical linkage problem that will be expensive to find. Do you have any suggestions?

A: Because the engine and transmission are electronically controlled, I'd be more inclined to think software rather than hardware. I think you're experiencing a tip-in hesitation as you re-apply throttle. My Alldata automotive database pulled up Ford bulletin 07-8-11 that suggests updating the software programming in the powertrain (PCM) and transmission (TCM) control modules to address this problem.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.*

All-wheel drive not always necessary

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Q: I have settled on a new Ford Taurus. My son, who lives in Detroit, is pushing for us to get the all-wheel-drive model because he says that it is safer, but I am not convinced that applies in Florida. Your opinion, please.—Vern, Leesburg, Fla.,

A: Vern, I have long been a fan of all-wheel drive, and I'm convinced that it is a safety benefit. But the more sophisticated vehicles get, the less AWD means. With traction control and stability control, front-wheel drive, which is what the standard Taurus is, can handle most any emergency situation, especially in Florida—in snowy Michigan, where your son lives, AWD remains a very desirable feature.

But here, not so much, and there are legitimate downsides to AWD—it's always more complicated, always heavier, almost always gets worse fuel mileage and typically costs more. In the case of your new Taurus, AWD adds about $1,850 to the price, and drops mileage from 18 mpg city, 27 mpg highway, to 17/25. I'd go with front-wheel-drive.

■■■

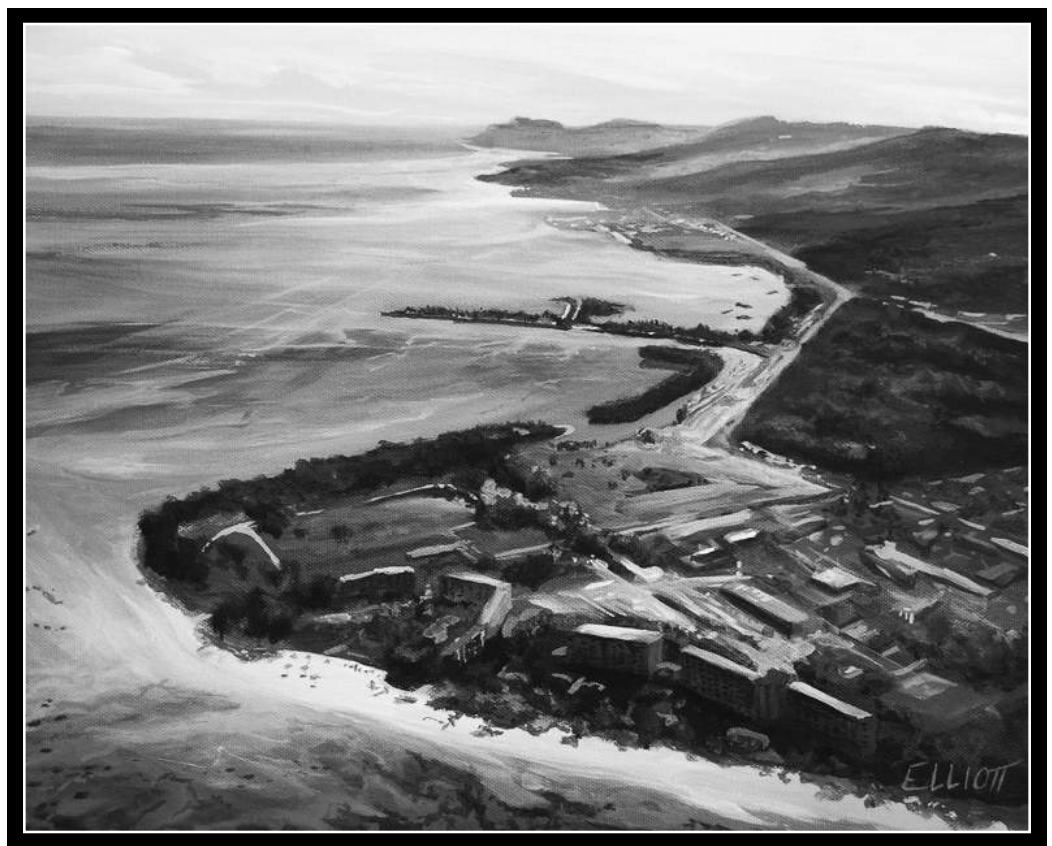
Q: I can afford a new Toyota Corolla, or a used Toyota Camry. Which should I buy?—Carolyn, Orlando, Fla.

A: I like new cars. Better financing rates, a warranty, they smell better, and there's the assurance that you aren't buying somebody's lemon. Any chance of a compromise, with a new, but modestly equipped, Camry? There is, after all, a $10,000 spread across the Camry model range, from base model to the most deluxe.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.

Life & Style

A view of the Aquarius building against the backdrop of a Saipan sunset, as painted by resident artist Greg Elliott.



An aerial view of Micro Beach in this painting by resident artist Greg Elliott.

'360' resto hosts artist reception, show for Greg Elliott

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CNMI resident artist Greg Elliott has been hard at work and is ready to launch a one-man show, "Views from the 360", a series of 20 new original paintings of Saipan. The reception and show will be held this Thursday, June 10, from 5pm to 9pm, at the 360 Revolving Restaurant and will include happy hour pricing and free appetizers. The art will be on display for sale through August.

Elliott will be showcasing mostly acrylic paintings on canvas in addition to a few watercolors. Greg has teamed up with art consultant Ashley Moffatt-Uys for this project.

"Ashley recently approached me with the idea to paint some landmarks and views from the unique perspective that the 360 Restaurant brings to it's customers," said Elliott. "The space lends itself well to showcasing artwork, while guests can enjoy the actual views of Saipan. This was a good chance to get back out and around Saipan to capture not only views from the 360 but also other parts of Saipan I haven't painted and with a new medium for me, acrylics. A few of these paintings were actually done on site and makes it both challenging and different for me since I've been a studio painter all my life. I think people will like the light and the depth of color that these paintings exhibit. I've also kept the paintings to small and medium sizes, which are more affordable and also better displayed in a space such as this."

For the past 19 years Elliott has been working almost exclusively in watercolors but within the last year or so has been working entirely in acrylics. "I have had a lot of success with watercolors as my primary medium and have developed as an artist using this unique and often times frustrating medium," he said. "It has served me well but I think to grow as an artist you need to continue to experiment to really keep it exciting and interesting. A few years ago I did a series of large pieces for Pacific Islands Club's game room in acrylics. It really whetted my appetite for this very versatile medium. I, however, didn't make the jump into it for a another few years. One night I was digging through my supplies and found I was out of some needed watercolor paints. I found a box stuffed with big containers of acrylics from the PIC project and decided to do a little painting of India, working from pictures and sketches from a recent trip there. I ended up with a great painting that jumped off the page with depth and vibrancy. I was hooked! The way I approached a painting and the methods used were quite different and so exciting and fun."

CNMI resident artist Greg Elliott poses inside his studio.

Acrylics allow Elliott to work as large as he wants and really challenged him recently in a two large panels commissioned by a resident here on Saipan. One painting was a total of 12' across by 8' high, done on three panels. The other was 8' X 4' and both were mounted on the client's walls.

"They came out great and they were very happy with the results," said Elliott. "These both can be seen on my Web site and have African and Indian themes. I also look forward to doing a solo show in the near future featuring large paintings of Asia, primarily India, Bali and Japan."

Elliott is a full-time artist, living on Saipan for the past seven years. His paintings are diverse, ranging from landscapes and seascapes, to architecture and figurative, with themes ranging across the Pacific, Asia and North America. Elliott has been collected by individuals worldwide residing in North America, Hawaii, Saipan, Guam, Korea, Russia and Japan. In addition, he has produced many commissioned work for individuals and organizations including Proteus Sports LTD, London; Suzuki Motor Corp., California; Arizona Memorial Museum Association, Hawaii; and Ulsan Windsurfing Association, Korea, to name a few.

Elliott has also been teaching fine art classes out of his studio on Capital Hill. Both children and adult classes are available. To sign up for summer classes contact Elliott at 285-2899 or by email at greg@elliottartwork.com. To see his latest paintings in full color and what Greg is currently up to, you can go to his Web site: www.elliottartwork.com. ***(PR)***

Obamas attend Ford's Theatre gala

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Sunday the legacy of the nation's founding fathers has inspired freedom-seeking people around the globe for generations, including those rebuilding South Africa after the end of apartheid.

Obama addressed an enthusiastic crowd at the annual Ford's Theatre gala Sunday, where South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and South African Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs received the theater's Lincoln Medal.

"There are few people more deserving of the Lincoln Medal, an honor bestowed on those who exemplify the particular focus, dedication and generosity of spirit of our 16th president," Obama said of the two honorees. "There are few better examples of how the spirit of our founding fathers did more than just create a nation, it inspired people in every corner of the globe yearning to be free."

Tutu, who was introduced by poet Maya Angelou, spoke of the global need for peace and respect. He condemned last week's clash in which nine activists were killed aboard a ship headed to the blockaded Gaza Strip.

He said he hoped his award would make "many more realize that revenge, retribution—no—are not the way to go. That true security is not something that comes from the barrel of a gun."

Sachs was introduced by Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, who praised his record of "defending the oppressed and opposing evil in his native land in the grim years of apartheid."

Sachs spoke of meeting Obama when the then-senator visited South Africa's courts.

A longtime admirer of Abraham Lincoln's writing, Sachs said he felt a connection between the historic president and Obama. This spark was made more powerful by Obama's presence in South Africa, where Lincoln's legacy was influential on the nation's new leaders.

Ford's Theatre awards the Lincoln Medal "to individuals who exemplify the legacy and character embodied by President Abraham Lincoln," who was assassinated at the theater in 1865.

The gala featured performances by "American Idol" winner Kelly Clarkson, who sang "Everybody Got Their Something," and pop star Lionel Richie, who sang "All Night Long." Dick Van Dyke performed a medley of songs from his children's movies, and soprano Renee Fleming sang pop song "In Your Eyes."

The event was hosted by Ty Burrell of "Modern Family," and will air July 2 on ABC.

'Twilight' eclipses bleep-happy MTV Movie Awards

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP)—Sandra Bullock was kissing and telling at the MTV Movie Awards.

Bullock, wearing a glittery black dress, received a standing ovation as she accepted the MTV Generation Award in her first live televised appearance since she split with unfaithful husband Jesse James earlier this year. The 45-year-old actress used her acceptance speech to clear up tabloid rumors—"No. 1: I'm not dead."—and smooch Scarlett Johansson.

"No matter what you might have seen or heard or read lately, I love what I do," vowed Bullock, "and I'm not going anywhere."

Bullock was presented with the show's highest honor by her "All About Steve" co-star Bradley Cooper, "The Proposal" co-star Betty White and inexplicably Johansson, the wife of her absentee "Proposal" leading man Ryan Reynolds. When asked why she was there to help hand over the trophy, Johansson hinted she wanted to lay one on Bullock, who awkwardly obliged.

"Now that we have done that," said a smiling Bullock, "can we please go back to normal?"

Bullock was fresh off her surprise appearance Saturday night at Spike TV's "Guys Choice" event in Culver City, Calif., but that show won't be broadcast until June 20. She also received a standing ovation there when she accepted the "Troops Choice" award for entertainer of the year, voted on by members of the military and presented by Robert Downey, Jr.

When it came to the awards at Sunday's freewheeling and often-bleeped ceremony at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif., "The Twilight Saga" eclipsed the competition for the second year. "New Moon" sucked up trophies for best movie, kiss, female performance for Kristen Stewart and male performance and global superstar for Robert Pattinson. "I guess 'Twilight' is really awesome, and I agree," said Stewart. "Woo!"

Other winners selected by online votes included "Obsessed" co-stars Beyonce Knowles and Ali Larter for best fight, "Jennifer's Body" star Amanda Seyfried for "scared-as-s--t moment," "Ninja Assassin" star Rain for "biggest badass star," "The Hangover" star Zach Galifianakis for comedic performance and "Up in the Air" co-star Anna Kendrick for breakout star.

"This is the coolest moment ever," said Kendrick, clutching her popcorn trophy. "This is going on my coffee table."

Tom Cruise launched the show as "Tropic Thunder" character Les Grossman, a profanity-spewing Hollywood producer. In the opening bit, Grossman used Michael Cera as a human bookend and berated "The Karate Kid" star Jaden Smith as his father Will Smith looked on. He later appeared on stage and danced alongside pop star Jennifer Lopez to Ludacris' "Get Back."

Grossman wasn't the only character whose naughty language was frequently censored. The cast of "Scott Pilgrim vs. The World" were barely audible as they presented an emotional Ken Jeong of "The Hangover" with the award for "WTF moment." Christina Aguilera, who performed a medley of tunes from her new album, was also muffled as she sang the saucy "Woohoo."

A comically angry Mark Wahlberg, however, was able to slip several bad words past censors during the presentation of the best villain trophy to Tom Felton of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince." Wahlberg jokingly hung above the stage with Will Ferrell, spoofing last year's bizarro moment when Sacha Baron Cohen landed on the lap of an offended Eminem.

Peter Facinelli, who plays vampire matriarch Carlisle Cullen in "The Twilight Saga," also sneaked some profanity onto MTV with his expletive-laden acceptance speech for best movie on behalf of the supernatural series' cast. Facinelli made sure to keep it clean when thanking "Twilight" author Stephenie Meyer though.

"I'm not going to curse with you because you're Mormon," he said.

"Parks and Recreation" funnyman Aziz Ansari hosted the 19th annual ceremony. Ansari, who paid tribute to "Avatar" by crooning like R. Kelly, slipped into several characters throughout the two-hour show. Among them: a seedy child stuntman agent, "Precious" and Galifianakis' swagger coach, who accepted the comedic performance award on Galifianakis' behalf.

AP

Peter Facinelli and members of the cast of The Twilight Saga: New Moon accept the best movie award at the MTV Movie Awards in Universal City, Calif., on Sunday, June 6, 2010.

WINNERS' LIST

Winners from the MTV Movie Awards:

- **Fight**: Beyonce Knowles vs. Ali Larter, "Obsessed."
- **Kiss**: Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson, "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."
- **WTF Moment**: Ken Jeong, "The Hangover."
- **Scared-as-S--t Moment**: Amanda Seyfried, "Jennifer's Body."
- **Breakout Star**: Anna Kendrick, "Up in the Air."
- **Female Performance**: Kristen Stewart, "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."
- **Male Performance**: Robert Pattinson, "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."
- **Global Superstar**: Robert Pattinson, "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."
- **Villain: Tom Felton**, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."
- **Biggest Badass Star**: Rain, "Ninja Assassin."
- **Comedic Performance**: Zach Galifianakis, "The Hangover."
- **Movie**: "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."
- **MTV Generation Award**: Sandra Bullock.

Video captures sought porn actor's deadly fall

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Surrounded by a SWAT team on a rocky cliff, a porn actor suspected of killing a colleague last week moved to the edge of the outcropping and fell some 40 feet to his death, ending a dramatic, daylong standoff with police outside Los Angeles.

Video of the apparent suicide captured by news cameras Saturday shows Stephen Clancy Hill in Chatsworth, talking to police negotiators, with a crowd of media watching. Hill tumbled down the hillside after scooting to the ledge from a seated position.

Police said Hill had repeatedly threatened suicide in the hours leading up to the fall, which came a day after murder and attempted murder charges had been filed against 34-year-old porn actor.

"He was bent on taking his own life," Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese said. "It's very unfortunate. We wanted this to end a different way."

Waiting paramedics rushed Hill to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead from injuries suffered in the fall.

Police say a "less than lethal munition" was used against Hill as they tried to apprehend him just before he apparently took his life.

It was unclear whether the projectile that officers fired had struck Hill or missed.

Albanese declined to discuss details of the weapon police used, citing an ongoing internal investigation that is launched after every serious use of force by officers.

SWAT officers had spent part of Saturday afternoon trying to talk Hill down from the hillside as he clutched a sword.

It was unknown whether the sword was the weapon in Tuesday's deadly attack at a DVD production center that also left two people injured.

Hill fled to the Chatsworth neighborhood hillside after leaving a house where he was barricaded for most of Saturday.

Charges in the attack had been filed against Hill Friday after Eric Jover, who runs the Ultima DVD production house, offered a $2,000 reward on the company's website for information leading to his arrest.

Authorities said Hill, whose professional name is Steve Driver, attacked a colleague with a sword that was used as a film prop. The rampage occurred during a social gathering at Ultima's studios about a week after being told he was being fired and that he would have to move out of the production facility, where he had been living, authorities said

He then turned on two others who rushed to their coworker's defense. One of those who attempted to help, Herbert Hin Wong, 30, was killed in the attack.

The Internet Adult Film Database lists 13 credits for Hill, including fetish films for Ultima and other companies.

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Marmaduke
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:35
Saturday & Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:25 9:35
Monday 1:10 4:30 7:25
Tues thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Owen Wilson, George Lopez
Children's, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis: Canine comic strip star Marmaduke leaps to the big screen with this family-friendly comedy starring Owen Wilson as the voice of the Great Dane. Also lending their voices to the 20th Century Fox production are Steve Coogan, pop star Fergie, George Lopez, and the brotherly duo of Damon and Marlon Wayans, with William H. Macy and Judy Greer heading up the human cast.

Splice
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday & Sunday 1:20 4:15 7:15 9:50
Monday 1:20 4:15 7:15
Tues thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Adrien Brody, Sarah Poley
Science, Fiction • Rated R
Synopsis: Two scientists (Adrien Brody and Sarah Polley) embark on a dangerous journey when they splice human DNA into preexisting genetic-engineered experiments in this sci-fi thriller from director Vincenzo Natali and executive producer Guillermo del Toro (Pan's Labyrinth).

Killers
Friday 4:05 7:20 9:45
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 4:05 7:20 9:45
Monday 1:30 4:05 7:20
Tues thru Thurs 4:05 7:20
Ashton Kutcher, Katherine Heigl
Thriller • Rated PG

Get Him To The Greek
Friday 4:25 7:10 9:55
Saturday & Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:10 9:55
Monday 1:25 4:25 7:10
Tues thru Thurs 4:25 7:10
Jonah Hill, Russell Brand
Comedy, Fantasy • Rated R

The Prince of Persia
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:40
Saturday & Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:40
Monday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Tues thru Thurs 4:20 7:05
Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton
Adventure • Rated PG 13
Synopsis: The setting is sixth century Persia. A nefarious nobleman covets the Sands of Time, a legendary gift from the gods that allows its possessor to turn back time. Whoever owns the Sands of Time has the power to rule the world, and this villainous lord would use that power to enslave all of humanity. The only person capable of defeating this tyrant and saving the world is Dastan a youthful prince.

Sex And The City 2
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Tues thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
Comedy • Rated PG

Shrek: The Final Chapter
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:30
Saturday & Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:30 9:30
Monday 1:15 4:10 7:30
Tues thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz
Comedy, Fantasy • Rated PG

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In this file film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Shrek, voiced by Mike Myers, left, and Fiona, voiced by Cameron Diaz are shown in a scene from, "Shrek Forever After."

AP

'Shrek Forever After' leads slow Hollywood weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood is in a June swoon as a rush of new movies fails to grab audiences.

DreamWorks Animation's "Shrek Forever After" remained the No. 1 movie for a third-straight weekend with $25.3 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. It raised its three-week domestic total to $183 million.

"It appears that the family audience is dominating the box office right now, and families clearly want to see `Shrek,'" said Anne Globe, head of marketing for DreamWorks Animation.

The overall box office tumbled, coming in at $125 million, down 24 percent compared to the same weekend last year, when "The Hangover" opened with $45 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

The best of the newcomers was Universal's rock 'n' roll comedy "Get Him to the Greek," which debuted at No. 2 with $17.4 million. The movie stars Jonah Hill as a record executive escorting an unruly rocker (Russell Brand) from London to Los Angeles for a concert.

Opening at No. 3 with $16.1 million was Lionsgate's action comedy "Killers," starring Katherine Heigl as a woman who marries her dream man (Ashton Kutcher) only to learn he's an international assassin.

Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal, said the studio is happy with the results for "Get Him to the Greek" but that slumping revenues for Hollywood in general are a concern.

"Everybody is talking to me about that, and I don't have an answer," Rocco said.

The weekend after Memorial Day a year ago, the blockbuster "Up" premiered with $68.1 million. That was more than the combined $52.3 million total for "Get Him to the Greek," "Killers" and anemic openings for this weekend's two other new wide releases—20th Century Fox's family comedy "Marmaduke" at $11.3 million and the Warner Bros. horror tale "Splice" at $7.5 million.

"The films a year ago were generating a ton of excitement, and this year's just kind of falling flat. You had four new wide releases, and a three-week-old movie is still No. 1," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "I don't know if they're bored or if ticket prices are too high or if they just have other things to do."

The quiet weekend follows a sluggish May that ended with the slowest Memorial Day holiday in 17 years in terms of movie attendance. Two big Memorial Day weekend releases, the Warner Bros. sequel "Sex and the City 2" and Disney's "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time," failed to light up the box office, and both fell off sharply in their second weekends.

1. "**Shrek Forever After**," $25.3 million.
2. "**Get Him to the Greek**," $17.4 million.
3. "**Killers**," $16.1 million.
4. "**Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time**," $13.9 million.
5. "**Sex and the City 2**," $12.7 million.
6. "**Marmaduke**," $11.3 million.
7. "**Iron Man 2**," $7.8 million.
8. "**Splice**," $7.5 million.
9. "**Robin Hood**," $5.1 million.
10. "**Letters to Juliet**," $3 million.

"Prince of Persia" was No. 4 with $13.9 million, down 54 percent from opening weekend and raising its domestic total to $59.5 million. "Sex and the City 2" finished at No. 5 with $12.7 million, down 59 percent and lifting its haul to $73.4 million.

For the year, Hollywood revenues are at $4.47 billion, up 3.7 percent over the record pace last year. But factoring in higher ticket prices, attendance now has slipped 2.7 percent behind last year's, according to Hollywood.com.

The box office can turn on a dime, though, so Hollywood could regain its momentum with just a few big hits.

"I'm still confident when you take a look at some of the films coming up in the summer, that audiences will start coming out in droves," said David Spitz, head of distribution for Lionsgate. "There's a lot of big titles, including next weekend."

This Friday brings a 1980s flashback with a remake of "The Karate Kid" starring Jackie Chan and Jaden Smith, the son of Will and Jada Pinkett Smith, and a big-screen adaptation of the TV action series "The A-Team," featuring Liam Neeson, Jessica Biel and "The Hangover" co-star Bradley Cooper.

Still to come are "Toy Story 3," reuniting voice stars Tom Hanks and Tim Allen; Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz's action comedy "Knight and Day"; "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse," the third installment in the vampire-romance franchise; and Leonardo DiCaprio's science-fiction thriller "Inception," from "The Dark Knight" director Christopher Nolan.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Spike TV: Sandra Bullock makes surprise appearance

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP)—Spike TV says Sandra Bullock has made a surprise appearance at its "Guys Choice" event in Culver City.

Spike says Bullock received a standing ovation from the audience Saturday night at Sony Pictures Studios when she accepted the "Troops Choice" Award for Entertainer of The Year, from presenter Robert Downey, Jr. The award was voted on by members of the military.

The 45-year-old actress has kept a low profile since her public split from husband Jesse James after she won the Best Actress Oscar for her role in "The Blind Side" earlier this year.

Bullock is also set to appear Sunday at the MTV Movie Awards where she is to receive the Generation Award.

Spike's "Guys Choice" will air on June 20.

AP

Actress Sandra Bullock accepts the Troops Choice Award onstage at Spike TV "Guy's Choice" awards in Culver City, Calif., on Saturday.

Oswald's getaway cab sold to Illinois museum

DALLAS (AP)—The Checker cab Lee Harvey Oswald took after President John F. Kennedy's assassination has been sold at auction to an Illinois museum.

Canadian auction house RM Auctions said in a statement Sunday that the 1962 Checker Marathon was among the holdings sold Saturday from the defunct Pate Museum of Transportation near Fort Worth, Texas. The former Dallas cab sold for $35,750 for display at the Historic Auto Attractions museum in Rockford, Ill.

Checker Motors Corp. donated the cab to the Pate museum in 1979.

Oswald hailed the cab moments after Kennedy was fatally shot on Nov. 22, 1963, when the bus Oswald initially tried to take got stuck in traffic. Oswald was arrested as a suspect in Kennedy's death and slain two days later by nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

Mom must work to overcome contempt she has for daughter

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: "Anonymous in Washington State" (March 25) can't stand her 10-year-old daughter but adores her two sons. I have worked for more than 20 years for a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve parenting and prevent child abuse.

"Anonymous" can access more information from the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services online (www.dshs.wa.gov) or via telephone at (360) 902-8400 to find out about free or low-cost mental health/counseling services in her area. Parent Trust for Washington Children may be able to provide information on support groups and other services. The phone number is (206) 233-0156. Finally, there is Childhelp USA ((800) 422-4453) if she wants to speak to a counselor who can direct her to local services.

SUZANNA IN MILWAUKEE

DEAR SUZANNA: Thank you for sharing some valuable resources. That letter struck a nerve with many readers who reached out to offer help as well as share similar experiences. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: As a teacher, I would occasionally have a student I didn't like. I gave myself the "Ten Rule." I'd make 10 positive comments about the student before I allowed myself to make a negative one. The process worked miracles.

I don't know if I changed because I made the effort to find good qualities, or if the child changed because of the positive input. Before long, I found myself liking and enjoying that student as much as I did the others.

NANCY IN BROUSSARD, LA.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I suffered physical and verbal abuse from my mother, who told me often I was her "ugly" child. The day I checked out of the hospital for depression she told me she had never bonded with me as an infant and that I annoyed her. I suffered from low self-esteem for as far back as I can remember.

I'm almost 40 now, and after thousands of hours of therapy and hard work, I choose to believe that I am worthy and loving. I'm in a healthy marriage and have a 2-year-old daughter. The thought of repeating the pattern of abuse makes me ill. I hope "Anonymous" will do whatever she can to change her attitude toward her daughter.

J.H., LONG BEACH, CALIF.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Children mimic what they see. "Anonymous" has two sons who are watching and learning how to treat people, especially women.

READER IN MILES CITY, MONT.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother was physically and mentally abusive to me while she doted on my three brothers. I used to pray for someone to rescue me. I vowed never to have children because I feared there was a defect my mother had passed on to me, and I never wanted anyone to feel the way she made me feel. Ironically, my three brothers never even call my mother, and after tons of therapy, I am now her loving caregiver.

BEEN THERE IN CALIFORNIA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 52 and my heart still aches when I think of how unloved I felt as an awkward 10-year-old. My mother was repulsed by me—an overweight, bucktoothed, loud and unladylike girl.

After I left home I went on to become a highly successful, beautiful and engaging woman, despite the flawed vision of myself that had been created by my self-absorbed and verbally abusive mother. Little girls grow up, and what this mother ruins today may haunt her tomorrow.

GROWN UP IN NEW ENGLAND

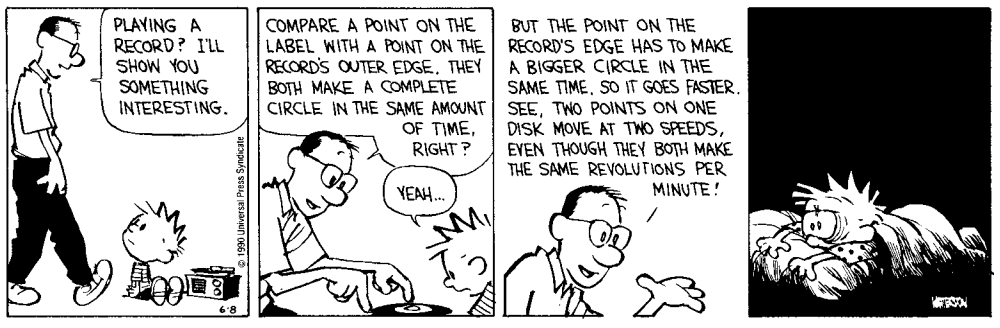
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


PLAYING A RECORD? I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING.
COMPARE A POINT ON THE LABEL WITH A POINT ON THE RECORD'S OUTER EDGE. THEY BOTH MAKE A COMPLETE CIRCLE IN THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME, RIGHT?
YEAH...
BUT THE POINT ON THE RECORD'S EDGE HAS TO MAKE A BIGGER CIRCLE IN THE SAME TIME, SO IT GOES FASTER. SEE, TWO POINTS ON ONE DISK MOVE AT TWO SPEEDS, EVEN THOUGH THEY BOTH MAKE THE SAME REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE!
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6-8

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'M GOING TO BUY UP ALL THE DOC'S NUCLEAR COFFEE AND CORNER THE MARKET..
NO ONE'S SUCCESSFULLY CORNERED THE MARKET ON A COMMODITY IN YEARS.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THEY GOT TO YOU, DIDN'T THEY?
WHO?
THE TEA PEOPLE. I'M NO FOOL. IT'S THE CLASSIC "SHORT SQUEEZE" BUSINESS TECHNIQUE.
YOUR HEAD NEEDS A CLASSIC "LONG SQUEEZE."
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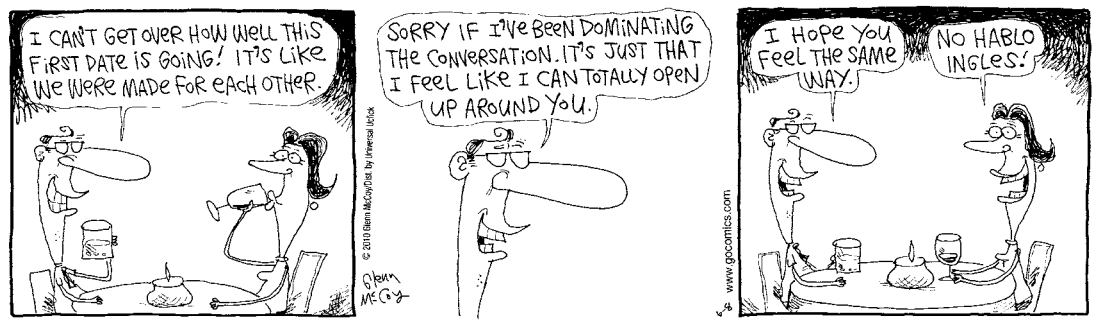
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I CAN'T GET OVER HOW WELL THIS FIRST DATE IS GOING! IT'S LIKE WE WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER.
SORRY IF I'VE BEEN DOMINATING THE CONVERSATION. IT'S JUST THAT I FEEL LIKE I CAN TOTALLY OPEN UP AROUND YOU.
I HOPE YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY.
NO HABLO INGLES.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

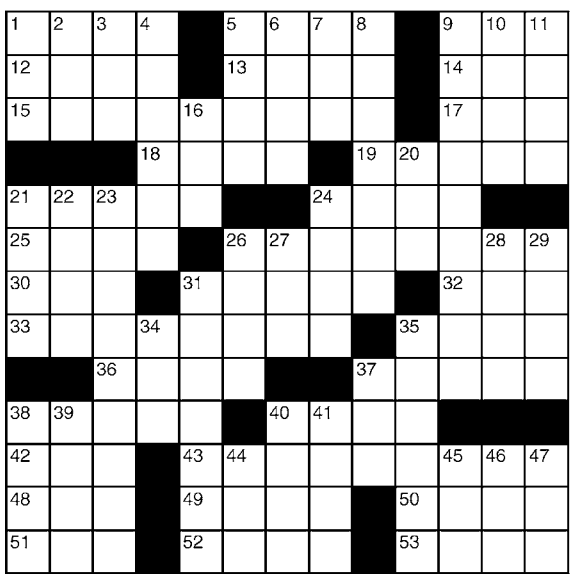
ACROSS
1 Shaft of light
5 Sword-fight, e.g.
9 Skirt edge
12 Met melody
13 Con
14 Ended a fast
15 Measuring device
17 Trench
18 Encounter
19 Fisher or Cantor
21 Host
24 From the start
25 Bank transaction
26 Dark and threatening
30 Rail
31 Written in a secret language
32 Shad product
33 Human-like robots
35 Small plateau
36 Addition problems
37 Passenger
38 Yellow-brown color
40 Stereotypical techie
42 — constrictor
43 Ant-eaters
48 Rowing need
49 Haul behind
50 Profound
51 Wapiti
52 TV award
53 Singer Anita

DOWN
1 Chesapeake or Coos
2 Historic time
3 Atmosphere
4 AMC series set in the ad world
5 Appointment
6 One
7 And so on (Abbr.)
8 Compared (to)
9 Inborn
10 Needle case
11 Apportion
16 Witness
20 Aachen article
21 Portoferraio's isle
22 Complain
23 Crafty poker player, e.g.
24 Dumbfounds
26 "Family Guy" mom
27 Peculiar
28 Small winning margin
29 Paraphernalia
31 Pal
34 Regret
35 Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, with "The"
37 Gun the engine
38 Reed instrument
39 Shade of black
40 Fat measure
41 Tense
44 Branch
45 Roulette bet
46 Mauna —
47 Agent

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	J	A	R	■	R	P	M	■	W	R	E	N
D	O	L	O	R	O	S	O	■	E	U	R	O
Z	E	P	P	E	L	I	N	■	A	N	N	E
■	■	■	E	E	L	■	T	A	S	S	E	L
T	H	I	R	D	■	M	A	N	E	■	■	■
W	A	D	S	■	L	A	N	O	L	I	N	■
O	D	E	■	K	O	R	A	N	■	C	O	B
■	J	A	V	E	L	I	N	■	R	O	U	E
■	■	■	O	G	L	E	■	P	E	N	N	E
W	O	O	D	S	Y	■	E	O	N	■	■	■
H	U	N	K	■	G	O	S	S	E	L	I	N
A	S	E	A	■	A	W	A	Y	G	A	M	E
M	E	S	S	■	G	N	U	■	E	X	P	O

Yesterday's answer 6-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kanye West, 33; Keenen Ivory Wayans, 52; Boz Scaggs, 66; Joan Rivers, 77

Happy Birthday: Getting involved in causes you believe in will lead to a change in lifestyle and an awakening regarding life and happiness. You are undergoing changes that will enable you to revisit past mistakes and turn any wrongs into rights. The key is understanding and owning up to whatever has come and gone, so you can move forward with a clean slate and an open mind. The future is simple once you've cleared a pathway. Your numbers are 2, 11, 17, 22, 30, 33, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Set the record straight if you haven't been specific about the way you feel. A personal problem will develop due to a misunderstanding. Now is not the time to overreact or overindulge. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Dealing with personal issues will be emotional but gratifying. It will be a relief to have your position out in the open. You can expect someone to be jealous of you or what you are doing. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Putting money, time and energy into what you already own or have to sell will lead to an opportunity. Be forceful when trying to find out information that can help you with legal matters or a claim you need to make. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Possessiveness in love will work against you. Instead, take on a positive attitude and you will find options that fit into your plans. Avoid making a promise that you don't really want to honor. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Prepare to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. Getting involved in activities or events that you would usually walk away from will spark your imagination and help you make a decision. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put a little thought into how you can raise the value of your home or downsize to meet your financial situation. Money can be obtained by collecting old debts or through gifts, winnings or a new contract you are competing for. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Give and take should be your answer to a problem you face at work. You can establish good relationships both professionally and personally if you compromise. A fast move on your part will produce a financial increase. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): It will be difficult to keep things mellow if you engage in talks with a partner who doesn't always agree with you. Honesty will be important if you don't want to experience repercussions or an alteration to your current mode of living. Uncertainty will be your weakness. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take hold of whatever situation you face and make your point clear and your ideas heard. You may be teetering in your personal life but, before you decide to move in one direction or another, strategize carefully. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A chance to make money on property or another asset is likely if you act fast when you see an opportunity arise. You'll be surprised how well things will go if you refuse to let a friend or relative interfere in your business. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Complete honesty is a must if you want to get your plans off the ground and reach your goals. Don't count on others being upfront when it comes to money matters. Don't let your emotions lead you down a path of no return. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't make the same promise to too many people you meet. A partnership can be a solution to a business venture. Someone with a good accounting background can take over responsibilities you don't have time for. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are competitive, determined and impatient. You strive to be the best and are benevolent.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9						8	
		8				2		
		1	7	9	8	5		
	8		6		3		9	
				7				
	7		2		5		3	
		7	3	5	9	4		
		5				7		
	2						1	

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	6	7	2	9	3	4	1
2	4	1	3	5	6	9	8	7
3	9	7	8	1	4	5	6	2
9	7	3	2	6	8	1	5	4
4	6	5	9	7	1	8	2	3
1	8	2	5	4	3	6	7	9
5	3	4	1	8	7	2	9	6
6	2	9	4	3	5	7	1	8
7	1	8	6	9	2	4	3	5

Difficulty Level ★ 6/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SIDNEY CROSBY **Solution: 8 letters**

Y	A	U	H	A	T	S	N	I	U	G	N	E	P	C
K	L	N	O	I	T	I	S	O	P	M	A	R	I	O
Z	E	I	I	G	N	I	R	O	C	S	E	N	T	L
T	A	F	M	R	E	L	O	R	S	C	A	R	T	E
E	D	O	N	A	T	E	E	I	O	E	E	O	S	H
R	N	R	D	T	F	Y	S	R	C	T	S	L	B	A
G	O	M	N	S	A	T	D	O	N	C	E	Y	U	R
H	V	A	O	L	S	S	I	E	I	A	S	A	R	B
O	A	E	P	L	K	K	C	T	G	Ⓓ	K	T	G	O
C	S	T	T	A	S	A	S	U	R	Ⓛ	C	T	H	U
K	C	R	T	U	N	I	E	T	R	Ⓞ	I	R	I	R
E	O	E	O	A	T	E	V	O	L	Ⓖ	P	A	C	E
Y	T	M	D	A	R	R	Y	L	E	F	T	H	K	M
N	I	A	T	P	A	C	O	A	C	H	E	D	Y	A
R	A	S	E	W	I	C	K	L	E	Y	O	U	N	G

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All-Star, Assists, Canada, Captain, Center, Coached, Cole Harbour, Darryl, Donate, Family, Game, Glove, Gold, Gretzky, Hart, Hockey, Lead, League, Left, Mario, Nova Scotia, Oceanic, Penguins, Picks, Pittsburgh, Player, Pond, Position, Records, Rimouski, Role, Scoring, Sewickley, Skate, Statistics, Taylor, Team, Trina, Trophy, Troy, Uniform, Young

Yesterday's Answer: Military

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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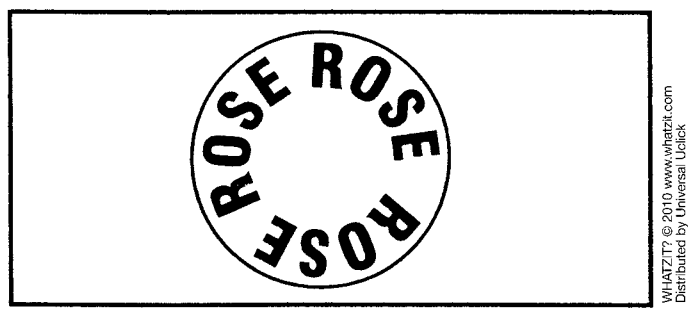
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



WHATZIT? © 2010 www.whatzit.com
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Find today's solution in this section

Allen, Rondo lead Celtics past Lakers, even finals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Somewhere during the second quarter in Game 2 of the NBA finals, Ray Allen slipped into that shooting zone only visited by real-life superstars and movie characters.

With his fundamentally flawless jumper snapping crisply from his wrists, the Boston guard hit 3-pointers in dizzying bunches against the helpless Los Angeles Lakers. He made seven in the first half and finished with a finals-record eight 3's in the Celtics' 103-94 victory Sunday night.

Allen's wry smile after he hit three straight 3-pointers in a two-minute span evoked memories of Michael Jordan shrugging his shoulders during his 35-point half against Portland in the 1992 finals. Even Jesus Shuttlesworth—you know, the sharpshooting kid Allen played in "He Got Game"—would have been proud.

"There's no better place, moment, time ... to win a game, and to win in a great fashion," Allen said. "I don't know what record it is that people are telling me that I got, but it's great to have, great to be able to look back on it and say I did that. This is definitely our time."

Yet Allen's barrage still wasn't enough to hand the defending champions their first home playoff loss of the season. All that elegant brilliance might have been wasted without Rajon Rondo, whose triple-double contained much of the dirty work necessary to even the finals.

While Allen scored 27 of his 32 points in the first half with a record-setting 3-point shooting display, Rondo completed his fifth playoff triple-double down the stretch. Taking charge after Allen cooled down, the point guard racked up 19 points—including the quick-reflex basket that put Boston ahead for good—along with 12 rebounds and 10 assists.

"The best part about getting a triple-double is getting a win," Rondo said. "That's pretty much it. It would be pointless to get a triple-double and lose the game."

Game 3 is Tuesday night in Boston.

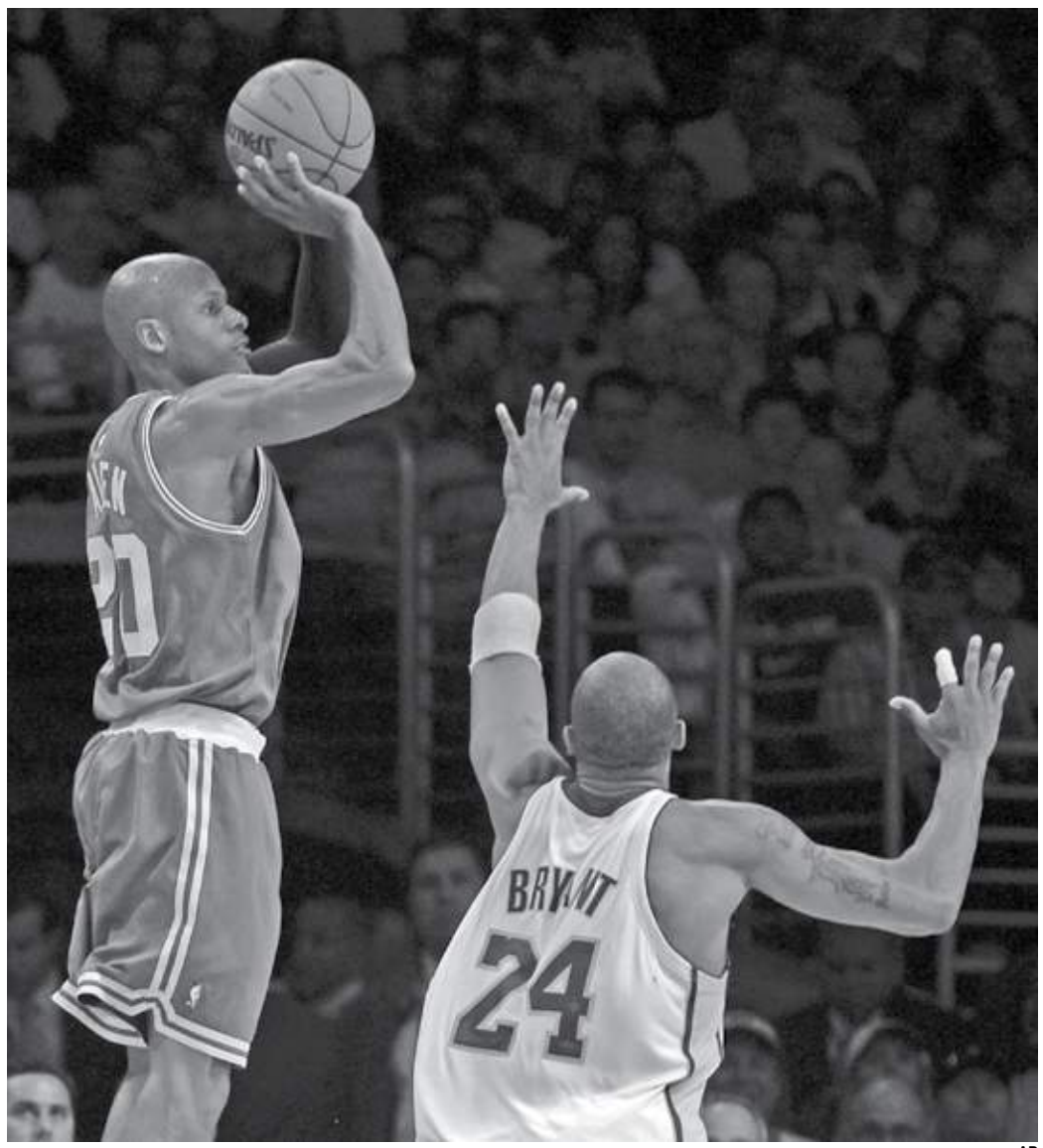
Kobe Bryant scored 21 points while battling more foul trouble for the Lakers, who couldn't catch up to Boston's dynamic guards in Los Angeles' first home playoff loss since last season's Western Conference finals. Pau Gasol had 25 points and eight rebounds for the Lakers, and Andrew Bynum added 21 points and six rebounds.

"It's a series," Bryant yawned. "You're trying to stay even-keel. You don't get too high, don't get too low after a win or a loss. You just go into the next one and take care of business."

Allen had just 12 points on 3-for-8 shooting in the finals opener, never finding his rhythm after early foul trouble. He didn't even hit a 3-pointer in Game —but he was just saving it up.

Allen tied the finals record for a full game with seven 3-pointers in the first half alone, sliding effortlessly around his teammates' picks for open shots while Derek Fisher and Bryant flailed in his wake. He didn't even miss until his eighth try rimmed out in the waning moments of the half, stunning both his bench and the fearful Staples Center crowd.

"I didn't think it was easy, getting the 3's up in the air," Allen said. "You look up and everybody is probably thinking, 'How did this guy get open?' But there's so much going on there—big screens, misdirection plays. I thought they did everything they could to keep me from shooting 3's, (but we) worked tirelessly."



AP

Boston Celtics guard Ray Allen shoots as Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant defends during the first half of Game 2 of the NBA basketball finals Sunday, June 6, 2010, in Los Angeles.

With his eighth 3-pointer midway through the third quarter, Allen broke the record for a full finals game he shared with Kenny Smith and Scottie Pippen—and though he didn't hit another under tight defense, Rondo took charge.

Rondo's layup put the Celtics ahead for good with 3:21 to play. The play was vintage Rondo, scooting in to collect a shot blocked by Gasol and scoring before Gasol could react.

Kevin Garnett then hit a jumper, and after another possession of stifling defense, Rondo hit another jumper, celebrating with a swing of his arm in the mostly silent Staples Center.

Rondo has grown into possibly the Celtics' biggest offensive threat in these playoffs. Although it wasn't as gaudy as his monstrous 29-point, 18-rebound, 13-assist Game 4 in the second round against Cleveland, his 10-point fourth quarter against the Lakers looms among his largest achievements—particularly if Boston gets rolling toward its 18th championship during three straight games at home over the next week.

"He just did a lot of things—the blocked shots, the steals," Boston coach Doc Rivers said. "He's our quarterback, and he does a lot of stuff for us. He was special tonight."

After the Lakers' whistle-plagued 102-89 victory in the opener, both teams again struggled under the weight of foul trouble. Garnett and Bryant both spent extra time on the bench, with Bryant picking up his fifth foul early in the fourth.

Garnett had just six points, and Paul Pierce never got going, scoring 10 on 2-of-11 shooting. The Lakers stayed in it with an inside game that generated 41 free throws—15 more than Boston—and strong efforts from Gasol and Bynum.

With Allen and Rondo playing spectacular basketball, none of their flaws mattered much.

"Our big guys played great," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "We didn't get the ball often enough to them, or in a good enough position many times, and a lot of our outside shooting was not that (good). ... In a sequence like this, there's no doubt it's a blow to us to lose the homecourt, but we anticipated this might happen, and we're just going to have to go pick it up."

Bryant's vaunted defense didn't help much after switching onto Allen, and Kobe didn't even get his second field goal of the game until Allen already had 22 points. Bryant spent most of the first half's final minutes on the bench after picking up his third foul on a charging call drawn by Allen.

Rose rallies to win the Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Winless for more than two years, so far down the world ranking that he was in danger of being forgotten, Justin Rose decided to stop being obsessed with results and think only about the shot in front of him.

It led to a result that was long overdue.

With a flawless final round to overcome a four-shot deficit, Rose had one-putt greens on eight consecutive holes Sunday and closed with a 6-under 66 to win the Memorial Tournament for his first title in America.

"I've had a few close calls over time, and you start to sometimes wonder why you can't get it done," Rose said.

Rose ran off three straight birdies before the turn, made a 20-foot par putt to keep his momentum, then seized control when Rickie Fowler took a double bogey with a tee shot into the water on the 12th hole. Fowler shot 73 to finish three shots behind.

When he tapped in for par on the final hole, Rose thrust his fist in the air slammed it down, as joyful as he was when he burst onto the golf scene 12 years ago as the 17-year-old amateur who tied for fourth in the 1998 British Open.

It was the second straight year the Memorial winner came from four shots behind. Tiger Woods did it a year ago, and Rose was equally impressive in playing without a bogey on a course made tough by the strong gusts.

Even his 16-month-old son Leo approved. As Rose held him aloft in his arms, the infant clapped his hands. Then came a handshake from the tournament host, Jack Nicklaus, who told the 29-year-old Englishman two years ago he would win the Memorial one day.

"To win here at the Memorial, at Jack's tournament, I couldn't think of a better place to win my first tournament," Rose said.

Fowler, the 21-year-old rookie trying to become the youngest winner at Muirfield Village, was atop the leaderboard for 48 consecutive holes until his 5-iron to the par-3 12th bounded off the side of a slope and into the water for a double bogey.

"I just made a bad swing and paid for it," said Fowler, a runner-up for the second time this year.

Rose had finished second or third in the 161 tournament he had played on the PGA Tour, enough to have doubts. He put them away with a putt on the 16th hole that wasn't as important as he thought at the time.

Rose had seen Fowler, playing in the group behind him, hitting from the drop area on the 12th. But he heard cheers behind as Fowler tried to catch up, and one of the loudest roars of the day came from the 15th hole. Rose knew it was an eagle, and he heard the fans screaming out, "Ricky."

Rickie Fowler was playing in the same group as Ricky Barnes. He wasn't sure who they were cheering, but he assumed it was Fowler.

Turns out it was Barnes.

"I thought, 'OK, here we go. This is dead even.' So I knew putt that I made a 16 was key, and that was the only sort of fist pump that I showed all day," Rose said. "Because I just felt like it swung the momentum back my way."

Only when he reached the 18th green did Rose realize he was three shots clear.

It was his seventh victory worldwide—Rose has won on five of the six major tours in the world—but his first on the PGA Tour. He joined an English revival in golf this year, with Lee Westwood rising to No. 3 in the world, Ian Poulter winning his first World Golf Championship, and Luke Donald reaching the top 10 in the world with a victory in Spain.

"Until you win over here, you don't feel like you've really achieved all you want to in the game," Rose said. "But it's about winning worldwide, too."

As he finished signing autographs, he bumped into Fowler, who stopped to congratulate him.

"Your time is coming," Rose told Fowler.

Dressed in orange from his cap to his shoes, Fowler showed great poise and hit great shots—including a 4-iron into the wind and over the water to 2 feet on the sixth—to stay in control. A brief lapse was all it took. He drove into a bunker on No. 10 for bogey, took birdie out of the equation on the par-5 11th by laying up into the rough, and found the water on No. 12.

Barnes shot a 73 and tied for third with Bo Van Pelt, who missed a short par putt on the final hole and had to settle for a 69.

Woods, the defending champion and a four-time winner, closed with a 72 and tied for 19th to finish 12 shots behind. It was his worst finish at the Memorial since 2002, although he found one highlight.

"I'm capable of playing four rounds in a row," said Woods, who has done that only once this year, at the Masters. He missed the cut at Quail Hollow and withdrew from The Players Championship in the final round with a sore neck.

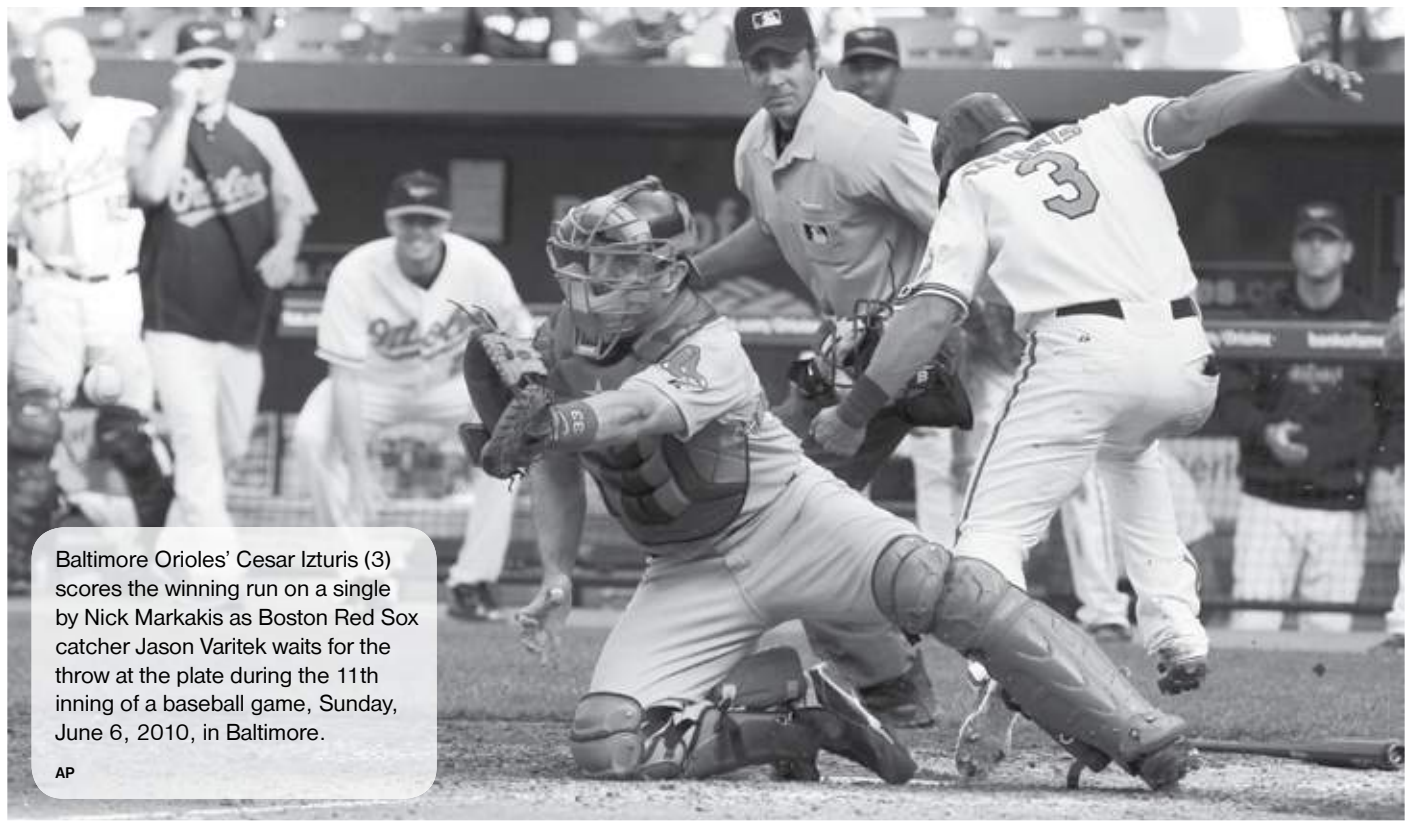
It was not an inspiring performance, especially with the U.S. Open two weeks away at Pebble Beach.

For the third tournament in a month, Phil Mickelson had a chance to get to No. 1 in the world with a victory. He got on the leaderboard with a strong start, but lost it on the par-5 15th when his drive was so far left that he wound up taking a penalty drop on the cart path from the 17th hole. He hit driver off the path up near the 16th tee, but he wound up three-putting for double bogey.

Mickelson shot a 69 in his final tuneup for the U.S. Open.

Rose finished at 18-under 270 and earned $1.08 million with a victory that will move him just outside the top 30 in the world.

Orioles beat Red Sox, 4-3



Baltimore Orioles' Cesar Izturis (3) scores the winning run on a single by Nick Markakis as Boston Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek waits for the throw at the plate during the 11th inning of a baseball game, Sunday, June 6, 2010, in Baltimore.

AP

BALTIMORE (AP)—The Baltimore Orioles ended their 10-game losing streak in dramatic fashion, getting an RBI single from slumping Nick Markakis in the 11th inning to defeat the Boston Red Sox 4-3 Sunday.

The victory was the first for interim manager Juan Samuel, who was promoted when Dave Trembley was fired Friday. The Orioles lost Samuel's first two games by a combined 19-2 score.

Cesar Izturis led off the 11th with a walk against Hideki Okajima (2-2) and went to second on a sacrifice. After Miguel Tejada was walked intentionally, Markakis—mired in an 0-for-14 skid—blooped a single to center that easily scored the winning run.

Yankees 4, Blue Jays 3

At Toronto, Robinson Cano hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the eighth inning as New York rallied past Toronto to avoid a three-game sweep.

Vernon Wells' two-run homer in the sixth was the only hit allowed by Yankees starter Javier Vazquez (5-5) in seven innings, and New York's power-packed lineup—which managed just three runs in the first 30 innings of the series—scored four times in the eighth.

The comeback spoiled a fine outing by Blue Jays right-hander Brandon Morrow, who didn't allow a run through the first seven innings. Scott Downs (1-5) took the loss.

Rays 9, Rangers 5

At Arlington, Texas, John Jaso drove in five runs and Matt Garza won for the first time in a month as Tampa Bay avoided a weekend sweep to Texas.

Jaso had a two-run homer, a two-run single and an RBI double as the designated hitter from the leadoff spot, a day after the rookie became the first Rays catcher ever to bat first.

Carlos Pena also homered for Tampa Bay (37-20), which still has the best record in the majors and a two-game lead over the New York Yankees in the AL East.

Athletics 5, Twins 4

At Oakland, California, Gio Gonzalez struck out four batters in seven innings to win his third straight decision as Oakland scored all of its runs with two outs against Minnesota.

Jack Cust and Kevin Kouzmanoff hit back-to-back RBI singles in the first to stake Gonzalez (6-3) to an early 2-0 lead. Ryan Sweeney hit an RBI double in the second and Mark Ellis and Cliff Pennington added RBI singles in the third to chase the Twins' Nick Blackburn (6-3).

Delmon Young hit a two-run homer off Tyson Ross in the eighth for the Twins, who were tyring for their first sweep in Oakland since July 18-20, 1997.

Royals 7, Tigers 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Brian Bannister won his career-high fifth straight start and Jose Guillen hit a three-run homer as Kansas City roughed up Jeremy Bonderman.

Bannister (6-3) improved to 20-8 in day games and is 5-2 with a 2.16 ERA in nine starts against the Tigers. He also ended his streak of allowing a home run at nine consecutive games.

White Sox 8, Indians 7

At Chicago, Paul Konerko hit a two-run homer and Carlos Quentin added a go-ahead two-run single in the seventh inning to rally Chicago past Cleveland.

J.J. Putz (1-2) struck out two in a scoreless seventh to get the win, and Bobby Jenks pitched a perfect ninth for his ninth save in 10 chances.

Lou Marson hit a three-run homer and Austin Kearns had three hits for the Indians, while reliever Tony Sipp (0-2) was credited with the loss.

Angels 9, Mariners 4

At Seattle, Mike Napoli had four hits, including a two-run homer that snapped a seventh-inning tie and lifted the Los Angeles Angels to over Seattle for their fifth straight victory.

Joel Pineiro (4-6) got plenty of help from Erick Aybar and Napoli, who both went 4 for 5.

After the Mariners rallied to tie it at 4 in the sixth, Napoli jumped on a high slider from Shawn Kelley (3-1), driving it over the right-field wall and the outstretched arm of Ichiro Suzuki to put Los Angeles up 6-4. Napoli also singled and scored in the ninth.

Aybar added an RBI single and Howie Kendrick hit an RBI triple to break the game open.

Rockies 3, Diamondbacks 2

At Phoenix, Ubaldo Jimenez became the first 11-game winner in the majors, though his scoreless innings streak ended after a franchise-record 33, and the Colorado Rockies held on to beat the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Jimenez (11-1) blanked the Diamondbacks through seven innings, then gave up just his second home run of the season, a two-run shot by Conor Jackson in the eighth. It was Arizona's first score against the hard-throwing right-hander in 27 innings dating to last August.

Jimenez allowed six hits, struck out eight and walked three as his ERA rose to 0.93. His 11 wins are three more than any other pitcher has.

Arizona set a franchise record with its seventh consecutive one-run game. Colorado had lost three in a row, matching its longest skid this season.

Carlos Gonzalez hit a two-run single off Rodrigo Lopez (2-4), and Troy Tulowitzki homered for the Rockies. Manny Corpas pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

Dodgers 5, Braves 4, 11 innings

At Los Angeles, A.J. Ellis hit an RBI single in the 11th inning to give Los Angeles a victory over Atlanta and a split of their four-game series.

Pinch-hitter Russell Martin drew a leadoff walk from Jesse Chavez (0-0), advanced on Blake DeWitt's bunt and came home when Ellis stroked a 1-2 pitch to left for his seventh RBI of the season.

Ronald Belisario (1-0) pitched two innings of two-hit ball for the win. Rafael Furcal hit his first home run of the season and James Loney had a two-run single for the Dodgers.

Mets 7, Marlins 6

At New York, Jeff Francoeur hit a tying, three-run homer in the seventh inning as New York rallied to beat Florida, running its home winning streak to eight games.

Angel Pagan had a two-run single in a three-run sixth and scored the go-ahead run when Ike Davis grounded sharply into a double play in the eighth.

Pedro Feliciano (2-2) struck out Chris Coghlan with runners on first and second to end the eighth, and Francisco Rodriguez finished for his 12th save. Cody Ross struck out with a runner on second to end it.

Ross hit a three-run homer and Dan Uggla also went deep for Florida, which called up highly touted slugger Mike Stanton from the minors after the game. He will make his big league debut Tuesday night in Philadelphia.

Padres 6, Phillies 5, 10 innings

At Philadelphia, Adrian Gonzalez homered and drove in three runs and Chase Headley had four hits as San Diego beat Philadelphia on pinch-hitter Oscar Salazar's two-out infield single in the 10th inning.

Nick Hundley also homered for the Padres. Headley opened the 10th with a single off Danys Baez (2-2) and advanced to third on a sacrifice and a grounder. After an intentional walk to Tony Gwynn Jr., Salazar singled deep into the shortstop hole.

Reds 5, Nationals 4, 10 innings

At Washington, Drew Stubbs hit a two-out single in the 10th inning, driving in Jay Bruce and helping Cincinnati beat Washington.

Bruce sparked the decisive rally with a single off Doug Slaten (2-1). After Laynce Nix singled, Miguel Batista replaced Slaten, and Stubbs sent another single to right.

Pinch-hitter Scott Rolen gave the Reds a 4-2 lead in the ninth with a two-run homer off Matt Capps, one batter after Capps allowed a tying double to pinch-hitter Jonny Gomes.

Washington tied it against Francisco Cordero (2-3) in the bottom half on pinch-hitter Michael Morse's two-run double. It was Cordero's fourth blown save in 20 tries.

Giants 6, Pirates 5, 10 innings

At Pittsburgh, Freddy Sanchez hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning after failing to drive in the go-ahead run two innings earlier as San Francisco bounced back from pinch-hitter Delwyn Young's tying homer to beat Pittsburgh.

Andres Torres doubled off Octavio Dotel (2-1) and moved up on his wild pitch ahead of a mid-range fly to center by Sanchez, who went 7 for 13 in his first series in Pittsburgh since being traded to the Giants in July.

Astros 6, Cubs 3

At Houston, Carlos Lee hit a two-run homer and Pedro Feliz added a two-run single to help Houston beat Chicago.

Brett Myers (4-3) pitched well into the seventh inning, scattering eight hits while allowing only two earned runs and striking out six. He left with two outs and two on, but reliever Wilton Lopez got the final out of the inning to end the threat.

Matt Lindstrom pitched the ninth to earn his 13th save in 16 chances.

Brewers 4, Cardinals 3, 10 innings

At St. Louis, Rickie Weeks homered early and Corey Hart hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to lift Milwaukee over St. Louis.

Manny Parra struck out a career-high 10 in 5 1-3 innings and the Brewers overcame Albert Pujols' 14th home run to snap a three-game skid.

The Cardinals, who had won three straight, fought back from a three-run deficit but lost for the third time in 10 games.

Jason Motte (2-2), who had retired 32 consecutive batters, walked Prince Fielder with one out in the 10th. Ryan Braun followed with an infield single and Casey McGehee also singled, loading the bases. Hart drove in Fielder with a fly to center.

Soccer fans stampede outside South African stadium

TEMBISA, South Africa (AP)—Thousands of soccer fans stampeded outside a stadium Sunday before an exhibition game between Nigeria and North Korea, leaving 15 people injured, including one police officer who was seriously hurt.

Several fans fell under the rush of people, many wearing Nigeria jerseys. The Makhulong Stadium in the Johannesburg suburb seats about 12,000 fans.

The mayhem happened only five days before the start of the World Cup, the first to be held in Africa.

"At this moment we have 14 civilians that were slightly injured in the process, one policeman seriously injured," police spokesman Lt. Col. Eugene Opperman said outside the stadium. The injured were being treated at a hospital, he said.

Opperman said tickets for the game were given out for free outside the stadium.

"What then occurred was large groups of people gathered outside the gates wanting to come in and wanting to get free tickets. Unfortunately in the process, the gates were opened and there was a stampede," Opperman said.

Soccer's international governing body said it had nothing to do with the ticketing.

"FIFA and the OC (local organizing committee) would like to reiterate that this friendly match has no relation whatsoever with the operational organization of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, for which we remain fully confident," FIFA said in a statement.

Police spokesman Col. Hangwani Mulaudzi added that because this was an exhibition game, the Nigerian team—the designated host—was responsible for security, not World Cup organizers. Once trouble broke out, he said, police stepped in.

"I think the fans were excited to come and see their heroes who will be participating in the World Cup," he said.

One police officer blamed FIFA for the trouble.

"FIFA made the tickets free and now look," said the policeman, who refused to identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media. "FIFA wanted them free."

One fan, wearing a South Africa rugby jersey and bleeding from the head, said the rampaging crowd overpowered him.

"I fell down and people just fell over me," Japhta Mombelo said. "That crowd is overpowering. The police have told me to stay around and they will organize an ambulance but I am still waiting."

The first rush came when the gates opened to allow fans into the stadium. Police soon closed the gates, but when they were reopened, a second rush occurred, with more people falling and being run over.

NADAL

From Page 28

son, both tour bests.

He saved all eight break points he faced. He returned well, too, against a guy who tops 140 mph, managing to hit the same number of aces Sunday, seven apiece, even though Soderling had totaled 75, and Nadal only 12, through the semifinals. He made only 16 unforced errors, 29 fewer than Soderling.

Most significantly, he never allowed his big-swinging foe to dictate points the way Soderling did during his pair of career-defining upsets—against Nadal in last year's fourth round, and against defending champion and top-seeded Federer in this year's quarterfinals.

Part of that was a result of going after Soderling's weaker backhand side at the outset of points. Mainly, though, it was thanks to Nadal's sublime scrambling, side to side, forward and backward, never relaxing one bit, nearly always forcing Soderling to conjure up more than one brilliant shot to win a single point.

Effort of that sort can be as demoralizing to an opponent as it is decisive on the scoreboard.

"I think he felt, like, everything he tried, he had to play three or four winners every point to be able to win it," said Soderling's coach, 2000 French Open runner-up Magnus Norman. "So it was tough."

Not that this match was very competitive, but there were a few key moments. The first came 21 minutes in, when Nadal broke for a 3-2 lead with an on-the-run, cross-court backhand passing winner that dropped right in a corner, leaving Soderling shaking his head.

The next came a half-hour later, when Nadal watched Soderling float a forehand wide, ending the first set. Get this: Nadal entered Sunday 94-1 when winning the opening set of a Grand Slam match.

What would turn out to be Soderling's last, true stand came in the second set's second game, when he compiled four break points. Nadal saved the first with an ace. He saved the second when Soderling sent a backhand long to cap a 10-stroke exchange in which Nadal twice retrieved booming cross-court forehands.

The third was an absolute masterpiece, something kids learning how to play tennis must watch. It began with Soderling smacking a backhand return so well that his backers in the crowd began cheering, assuming the point was over. Not with Nadal at the other end. No way.

He sprinted over, spraying particles of rust-colored clay in his wake, crouched down and chopped the ball back. Thus began an 11-stroke point, in which Nadal blocked a Soderling overhead smash, then moved to the net and caressed a drop volley winner.

Fans roared; Soderling sighed; Nadal wheeled, threw an uppercut and kicked up his right leg.

Then, on the fourth break point, Soderling made the first of three consecutive return errors. Instead of Soderling leading 2-0, it was 1-all. Three games later, Nadal broke to begin a run of seven games in a row, pretty much settling things.

Soon enough, Nadal was in the familiar-to-him position of crumpling to the clay and laying on his back, French Open champion again.

"That's why he's so good—because he's moving so well and gets everything back," Soderling said. "He's a great defensive player, but also has a great offensive game, as well. He can really change defense to offense really quick."

Asked to compare this version of Nadal with the one Soderling defeated twice last season, Norman replied: "He's being more aggressive. He's moving a lot better."

Both are a result of being happy and healthy, two things Nadal was decidedly not for long stretches in 2009, his annus horribilis.

There was the painful knee tendinitis, which hampered him when Soderling snapped Nadal's record 31-match French Open winning streak. Those knees also forced Nadal to decline to defend his 2008 Wimbledon title.

"If you think about the knees," he said Sunday, "you can't think about the ball."

There also was an abdominal tear that affected him at the U.S. Open.

Most distracting and disturbing of all was his parents' separation.

"A difficult year for me," Nadal said.

Toni Nadal said his nephew wasn't able to put family matters out of his mind until the beginning of this season.

Still, through the injuries, through the losses, through the personal issues, the Nadals must have known Rafael would return to the level displayed Sunday, right? Or did they actually harbor questions, no matter how great a player he already had shown himself to be?

In other words: Were they worried?

"Sure. I think everybody (has) doubts," the younger Nadal said. "I am not an exception."

Said Toni Nadal: "Always, I have doubts."

Those weren't resolved until mid-April, at the clay-court tournament in Monte Carlo—and Nadal hasn't lost since, compiling a 22-match winning streak.

There's no time to celebrate properly, though: Nadal plans to be in London on Monday, practicing. There is grass-court tennis to be played, and a second Wimbledon championship to chase.

DELEGATES

From Page 28

lands Legislative Delegation, each athlete/official will only pay $426. That's a fix amount and I think this time each athlete/official will have an easier time finding funds for the trip," NMASA president Michael White said during the association's monthly meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

White reiterated that failure to pay the contribution on time will mean exclusion from the Team CNMI.

"If you failed to settle your dues, I am sorry, you won't go," White added.

NMASA has until June 30 to register athletes/officials' names for the Micro Games and White said payments and other required documents should be in several days before the deadline.

So far, only three associations—swimming, triathlon, and lawn tennis—had made complete payments. Baseball, basketball, canoe, spearfishing, and athletics are expected to follow suit.

"Please to avoid any unfortunate incident, it will be best if we can get all the documents and the payment days before the deadline," White said.

Each delegates is required to submit a photo (passport size). The photo can be dropped to White's office in Susupe or be sent via e-mail. Delegates are also asked to submit a copy of the page of their passport containing personal information.

The 7th Micronesian Games will run from Aug. 1 to 10 with Palau expected to host more than 1,000 athletes and officials across the region.

RABAULIMAN

From Page 28

After a dominating finals performance, Rabauliman's Patriots were presented with the 2010 Little League Junior Division championship trophy and also received the pennant championship award for their flawless 14-0 season.

The Ol'Aces, meanwhile, was recognized collectively as both the runner-up champions and runner-up pennant champions, following a 10-4 win-loss late for the season.

The Ol'Aces' A.J. Lizama was also crowned 2010 Batting Champ with a 0.571 batting average this season. Lizama also hammered seven doubles and drove in 20 RBIs to take home the Doubles Champion and Most RBIs awards.

The Athletics' Keene Guerrero was crowned 2010 Strikeout King with an impressive 59 strikeouts on the year, while the Red Sox were presented with the third place team trophy after edging out the Fielders, 5-4, in Saturday morning's consolation game.

Dela Cruz, Iguel named Seniors MVPs

Over in the Senior League, Ricardo Dela Cruz of division champs Lions walked away with the MVP of the championship.

This after the slugger hit a clutch two-run homer that shot his team comfortably ahead going into the later innings of their game against the Fielders in the championship played last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Ol'Aces' Lemarc Iguel, meanwhile, was selected as MVP of the regular season with a spectacular offensive production during the year.

Iguel recorded 0.525 batting average on the year to win the Batting Champ award. He also let loose on three homeruns to crown himself the Homerun King.

Iguel's teammate, Greg Iskawa, took home the Most Runs trophy after crossing the plate a league-leading 26 times this season.

Other individual awardees include: Ol'Aces Harry Nakamura, who won the Most RBIs trophy with 22 RBIs on the year; Jesse Yamagishi, who was the Triples Champion after a league-leading five triples; and Jake Santos, who won the ERA Award trophy with an impressive 0.82 earned run average on the season.

Hunters southpaw pitcher Joseph Palacios sat down 83 batters this season and was crowned the 2010 Strikeout King. The Hustlers' Jeremy Lizama hit a league-leading five doubles and took home the Doubles Champion honors.

The Lions were also presented with the Senior League championship trophy after defeating the Fielders, 7-5, in the finale. The Fielders got the runner-up championship plum.

The team also received the pennant runner-up trophy after finishing the year with a second-best 10-5 win-loss record in the regular season.

Ol'Aces, meanwhile, was presented with the pennant championship trophy after a 13-2 regular season record. It also cornered the third place trophy after fending off the Hunters, 5-3, in Saturday's consolation game.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Wade, MIA	5	62	27	166	33.2
Anthony, DEN	6	64	50	184	30.7
Bryant, LAL	17	178	110	501	29.5
James, CLE	11	106	88	320	29.1
Rose, CHI	5	57	18	134	26.8
Nowitzki, DAL	6	58	40	160	26.7
Durant, OKC	6	43	54	150	25.0
Williams, UTA	10	67	89	243	24.3
Stoudemire, PHX	16	124	107	355	22.2
Westbrook, OKC	6	43	32	123	20.5
Billups, DEN	6	37	37	122	20.3
Gasol, LAL	17	130	83	343	20.2
Richardson, PHX	16	112	44	316	19.8
Boozer, UTA	10	89	19	197	19.7
Butler, DAL	6	43	25	118	19.7
Ginobili, SAN	10	58	58	194	19.4
Pierce, BOS	18	110	97	349	19.4
Aldridge, POR	6	40	33	114	19.0
Duncan, SAN	10	78	33	190	19.0
Nelson, ORL	14	91	51	266	19.0

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Thomas, CHA	15	24	.625
Howard, ORL	86	140	.614
Bynum, LAL	65	113	.575
Millsap, UTA	70	122	.574
Gasol, LAL	130	230	.565
Wade, MIA	62	110	.564
Nowitzki, DAL	58	106	.547
Boozer, UTA	89	168	.530
Noah, CHI	28	53	.528
Horford, ATL	67	128	.523

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Boozer, UTA	10	33	99	132	13.2
Noah, CHI	5	20	45	65	13.0
Howard, ORL	14	38	117	155	11.1
Gasol, LAL	17	65	123	188	11.1
Camby, POR	6	16	44	60	10.0
Duncan, SAN	10	30	69	99	9.9
James, CLE	11	15	87	102	9.3
Odom, LAL	17	51	105	156	9.2
Horford, ATL	11	28	71	99	9.0
Wallace, CHA	4	2	34	36	9.0

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Williams, UTA	10	102	10.2
Nash, PHX	16	161	10.1
Rondo, BOS	18	178	9.9
James, CLE	11	84	7.6
Rose, CHI	5	36	7.2
Kidd, DAL	6	42	7.0
Wade, MIA	5	34	6.8
Billups, DEN	6	38	6.3
Bryant, LAL	17	105	6.2
Westbrook, OKC	6	36	6.0

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	37	20	.649	–
New York	35	22	.614	2
Boston	33	25	.569	4 1/2
Toronto	33	25	.569	4 1/2
Baltimore	16	41	.281	21

Central Division

Minnesota	33	24	.579	–
Detroit	29	27	.518	3 1/2
Chicago	24	32	.429	8 1/2
Kansas City	24	34	.414	9 1/2
Cleveland	21	34	.382	11

West Division

Texas	30	26	.536	–
Los Angeles	31	28	.525	1/2
Oakland	30	28	.517	1
Seattle	22	34	.393	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	33	24	.579	–
Philadelphia	30	25	.545	2
New York	30	27	.526	3
Florida	28	30	.483	5 1/2
Washington	27	31	.466	6 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	33	24	.579	–
St. Louis	33	24	.579	–
Chicago	25	31	.446	7 1/2
Pittsburgh	23	33	.411	9 1/2
Milwaukee	23	34	.404	10
Houston	22	35	.386	11

West Division

San Diego	33	23	.589	–
Los Angeles	33	24	.579	1/2
San Francisco	30	25	.545	2 1/2
Colorado	29	27	.518	4
Arizona	22	35	.386	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 7, Florida 6
Cincinnati 5, Washington 4, 10 innings
San Diego 6, Philadelphia 5, 10 innings
San Francisco 6, Pittsburgh 5, 10 innings
Houston 6, Chicago Cubs 3
L.A. Dodgers 5, Atlanta 4, 11 innings
Colorado 3, Arizona 2
Milwaukee 4, St. Louis 3, 10 innings
N.Y. Yankees 4, Toronto 3
Baltimore 4, Boston 3, 11 innings
Chicago White Sox 8, Cleveland 7
Kansas City 7, Detroit 2
Tampa Bay 9, Texas 5
Oakland 5, Minnesota 4
L.A. Angels 9, Seattle 4

MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT SCORES

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)–Scores Sunday from the U.S. PGA Tour's $6 million Memorial Tournament at the par 72, 7,366-yard Muirfield Village Golf Course (prize money in parentheses):

FINAL ROUND

Nick Price, $258,750	67-65-67–199
Tommy Armour III, $151,800	63-69-71–203
John Cook, $113,850	69-69-66–204
Loren Roberts, $113,850	70-66-68–204
Jeff Sluman, $60,375	68-68-69–205
Chip Beck, $60,375	69-66-70–205
Bruce Vaughan, $60,375	68-66-71–205
Dan Forsman, $60,375	66-68-71–205
Russ Cochran, $60,375	66-68-71–205
Don Pooley, $60,375	68-65-72–205
Fred Couples, $35,535	70-70-66–206
Bernhard Langer, $35,535	67-70-69–206
Mike Reid, $35,535	67-70-69–206
Olin Browne, $35,535	67-69-70–206
Peter Senior, $35,535	69-67-70–206
Tom Kite, $23,783	72-69-66–207
D.A. Weibring, $23,783	71-70-66–207
Larry Mize, $23,783	70-69-68–207
Bobby Clampett, $23,783	71-67-69–207
Fred Funk, $23,783	73-64-70–207
Brad Bryant, $23,783	71-66-70–207
Ted Schulz, $23,783	69-68-70–207
Mark James, $23,783	69-67-71–207
Blaine McCallister, $17,681	70-69-69–208
Mike Goodes, $17,681	67-68-73–208
Tom Purtzer, $15,353	72-66-71–209
Kirk Hanefeld, $15,353	67-71-71–209
Mark O'Meara, $15,353	67-69-73–209
Gene Jones, $15,353	67-68-74–209
Gary Hallberg, $13,283	68-71-71–210
Jay Haas, $13,283	71-68-71–210
David Peoples, $11,644	70-71-70–211
Joe Ozaki, $11,644	71-70-70–211
Ronnie Black, $11,644	67-72-72–211
Fulton Allem, $11,644	72-67-72–211
Peter Jacobsen, $9,167	74-69-69–212
Morris Hatalsky, $9,167	71-70-71–212
Scott Simpson, $9,167	72-67-73–212
Lonnie Nielsen, $9,167	67-72-73–212
Corey Pavin, $9,167	69-70-73–212
Eduardo Romero, $9,167	71-68-73–212
Gary Koch, $9,167	71-67-74–212
Hal Sutton, $7,073	76-69-68–213
David Eger, $7,073	71-71-71–213
Jim Roy, $7,073	73-67-73–213
Steve Haskins, $7,073	73-67-73–213
James Mason, $7,073	70-68-75–213
David Frost, $5,520	70-73-71–214
Gil Morgan, $5,520	69-74-71–214
Bobby Wadkins, $5,520	74-68-72–214
Wayne Levi, $5,520	71-72-71–214
Tim Simpson, $3,726	77-72-66–215
Bob Gilder, $3,726	73-73-69–215
Tom Jenkins, $3,726	71-75-69–215
Bruce Fleisher, $3,726	74-71-70–215
Keith Fergus, $3,726	72-71-72–215
Bruce Summerhays, $3,726	71-71-73–215
Chris Starkjohann, $3,726	70-72-73–215
Jay Don Blake, $3,726	71-70-74–215
John Harris, $3,726	73-67-75–215
Fuzzy Zoeller, $3,726	69-67-79–215
John Ross, $2,588	74-73-69–216
Joey Sindelar, $2,588	76-69-71–216
Keith Clearwater, $2,588	73-69-74–216
Vicente Fernandez, $2,156	74-71-72–217
Dave Eichelberger, $2,156	73-72-72–217
Jodie Mudd, $1,748	75-71-72–218
Jack Ferenz, $1,748	73-73-72–218
Larry Nelson, $1,748	74-71-73–218
Bruce Lietzke, $1,466	76-70-73–219
Allen Doyle, $1,466	74-72-73–219
Mark Wiebe, $1,259	70-74-76–220
Andy Bean, $1,259	69-73-78–220
Tom Wargo, $1,139	71-76-74–221
Denis Watson, $1,035	74-76-76–226
Ken Schall, $1,035	70-77-79–226
Graham Marsh, $932	79-75-76–230

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEINA

From Page 28

participants with 48, including first placer Ned Norita. Norita was consistent with his game, scoring 40s on both nines for a one-stroke win over Gyu-Yeon Kim and Bob Hudkins. Gyu-Yeon Kim and Hudkins had identical gross scores of 81 with the former prevailing in the tiebreak.

In the C flight, Gerald Guerrero also won by only one stroke against Kazumi Matsumoto and Luis Hocog. Guerrero posted a gross 90 against Hocog and Matsumoto's 91. Matsumoto defeated Hocog in the tiebreak to take the runner-up prize.

The biggest winning margin in the tournament came in the Seniors flight with Mori Toshiyuki nailing a 2-over par 74 for a four-shot win over runner-up Ed Manibusan (78). Nick Sablan finished third with his 8-over par 80.

All top finishers in each flight received $500 and accommodations from HANMI-member hotels. Runner-ups pocketed $300, while third placers went home with $200. Top 3 placers also took home a bottle of Chivas Regal.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Quincy Johnson, seen here making a shot against Quichocho Law Office's Larry Palero, played for the CNMI Men's Nationals during last year's Budweiser caging. The Nationals are one of the teams competing in the 2010 edition of the Budweiser league, which will kick off this Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Budweiser caging adopts theme, to use FIBA LiveStats

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Participating teams and spectators are in for a better organized basketball competition when Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands kicks off the 2010 Budweiser Basketball League this Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

How? Two reasons.

First, the Budweiser caging will be utilizing the FIBA LiveStats programs, which is a software designed to see play-by-play detailed action in the game. Basketball fans, who may not be able to go to the gym to watch the games, can still find out how the match went by checking the BANMI website and clicking the league's link.

"We're taking Budweiser and basketball to another level," BANMI president Elias Rangamar said. "We will be doing our best to give teams the same kind of experience that we had from the successful FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament through FIBA LiveStats. This is a first for the league."

Second, all teams will be receiving complete uniforms, so no need to worry that one player will get the ball to the wrong guy wearing the same uniform color. Uniforms are custom-made from Island Apparel and will bear names of Budweiser's brands.

Representatives of teams are asked to attend a meeting tomorrow at 5:30pm for the drawing of squads. After the first draw, teams will have another draw to select their respective Budweiser brand uniforms.

"This year's league is going to be great. Budweiser and BANMI have teamed up to give fans another season of exciting basketball games and much more. You have to come and watch the games," league commissioner Gabriel White said.

White added the 2010 edition of the Budweiser caging adopts the theme "Basketball, It's What We Do," explaining the slogan signifies Budweiser and BANMI's long-standing relationship to provide the CNMI with the island's best basketball competition for many years.

Eight teams have already confirmed their participation in the league, including the CNMI Men's National Team. The Men's Nationals will be using the Budweiser caging to prepare for the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau this August.

BANMI said two more slots are still available and teams have until Friday to contact organizers for inquiries. For more information, contact White at 234-6548 or via email at awaawaa@hotmail.com.

Barbo, Esdrelon named MVPs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club's Darwin Barbo and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Elmer Esdrelon took the most valuable player awards in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League.

Barbo was named Finals MVP after leading PIC to a title win against Aqua Resort Club, while Esdrelon claimed the regular season MVP trophy for making it to the Top 5 of six of seven categories.

PIC entered the best-of-three title series as the underdog, having been seeded 11th in the playoffs against the fifth-ranked Aqua Resort. However, through the help of Barbo, PIC won Games 1 and 3 to stun favored Aqua Resort.

Barbo, who missed a couple of games in the regular season, was consistent in scoring and rebounds in the playoffs. In the championship series opener, Barbo scored 17 points and lifted PIC to an 87-74 win. He tallied 22 markers in their 65-71 loss in Game 2 and then wrapped up the series with a 23-point production in their 85-68 victory in Game 3.

Fiesta Resort finished third in the regular season and gained an outright quarterfinals seat behind the all-around game of Esdrelon.

The Fiesta Resort guard led the league in three-point shots,

averaging about four treys every game. In steals department, he finished second with an average of 4.2 per game; third in rebounds with 11, second in assists with an average of 5.5; fourth in scoring with his 28 points per match; and made it to the Top 5 in free throws with his 79.62 percent clip.

Esdrelon and Barbo received their MVP trophies during the awards ceremony last Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

The two MVPs also earned spots on the Mythical Team, joining World Resort/Advance X-Terminators' Wowie Abuel, Aqua Resort's Gil Gapor, and Micronesian Brokers, Inc.'s Noel David. Mythical Team members took home trophies presented by league coordinator Boy Lingcaso and Shirley's Coffee Shop's Irene Santiago.

Also receiving trophies for winning individual awards were TBK Auto Care's Jun Pantaleon, Aqua Resort's Glenn Aquino, Pepsi's Alex Lauron, Shirley's Errol Peredo, AON/NJ Pro Plus' Bon Tamayo, and Abuel.

Pantaleon topped the steals department (4.8 per game); Aquino led in blocks (1.14); Lauron ruled the rebounds category (13.30); Abuel prevailed in assists (6.1); Peredo led in scoring (31.46); and Tamayo reigned in free throws (79.70 percent).

In team categories, 2009 champion MBI won the pennant trophy, while Pepsi claimed the sportsmanship award.

Meanwhile, an exhibition game between PIC and selected players from 14 other teams was played before the awards ceremony and it ended in deadlock, 96-all.

Barbo had a chance to give PIC the win when he trooped to the stripe for a pair of charities with eight seconds left in the game. However, he muffed both free throws, leaving the opportunity to steal the match to the Selection Team.

After Barbo's second miss, Esdrelon grabbed the rebound and hurriedly attacked the basket. However, Heartim Willams fouled Esdrelon even before the latter could have pulled up for a shot. PIC had fouls to give so with 2.1 seconds remaining, the Selection Team was forced to make an inbound from the sideline.

Barbo then redeemed himself from an earlier booboo when he blocked Kae Bernardo's short jumper from the right baseline. The ball went out of the baseline and time expired.

PIC 96 – D. Barbo 25, Williams 20, Abuy 16, Yabut 10, Baterina 7, Danipog 5, K. Barbo 5, Dacanay 4, Jung 4.

Shirley's Selection 96 – Estolas 20, Bernardo 16, Catalla 10, Guiab 10, Esdrelon 9, Ruluked 6, Lee 5, Lauron 4, Villagomez 4, Tamayo 4, Dulfo 2, Hernandez 2, Cabrera 2.

Scoring by halves: 30-39, 96-96.

BANMI selects three to World Basketball Camp

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands has selected two lucky 14-year-olds—a boy and a girl—together with a young basketball coach, to participate in the Children of the World Basketball Camp.

The camp will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from Aug. 24 to 31. All expenses for the trip are paid.

Representing the CNMI will be Ed Ello J. Cudia and Jeraldine Castillo, both 14, and both students at Hopwood Jr. High School; and Joe Diaz, a youth basketball coach. Interestingly, Cudia and Castillo share the exact same birthday, Feb. 10, 1996.

Cudia plays for his school's basketball team at Hopwood Jr. High School, and helped them to an undefeated season and the league championship. In his application, Cudia said, "I am really devoted to the game of basketball, and it will be really exciting to be in a basketball camp in a country where I have never traveled to. I will be really honored to go to Turkey and represent my home. This experience can also help me out when I return to the CNMI. I can help out my team, and other kids in the CNMI, by telling them everything that I learned, and how different people from around the world are, especially when it comes to the sport of basketball."

Castillo also plays on her school team, and was selected as its most valuable player. In her application, Castillo promised that, "When I get back, I would teach my people of the CNMI the skills that I was taught there so that they all can be playing and enjoying basketball." She wants to meet other kids who are interested in basketball, and hopes to become friends with them.

Diaz is a fixture on the local youth basketball scene, and coaches for the Rollers Basketball Club teams. He began coaching in the 1990s, and has led teams in youth tournaments on Guam as well as Saipan. His coaching philosophy is that coaches can teach a player how to play the game, but players can teach the coach, too. The effort has to be mutual. Diaz adds that coaches have the responsibility of helping to develop other coaches as well as players.

BANMI president Elias Rangamar said, "We were impressed with the qualifications of everyone who applied. Our choices were not easy ones, but we are confident that the campers we selected will bring credit to the CNMI, and will bring their knowledge and experience back home so that others can benefit too."

The Children of the World Basketball Camp is a social and cultural basketball project that will bring together teenagers from around the world. Most of FIBA's 212 national basketball federations are expected to participate, so the camp will offer an unforgettable experience for the participants. ***(BANMI)***

CWGA June tourney this Saturday

The CNMI Women's Golf Association will hold its June tournament this Saturday, June 12, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Tee time for the ladies competition at the west course of the Kagman facility is 11:30am with tee off set an hour later at 12:30pm.

For more information about the June golf tournament of CWGA, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity.

For more information about the club's monthly tournaments, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Allen, Rondo lead Celtics past Lakers, even finals

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nadal wins 5th French Open title

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

PARIS (AP)—Scurrying along the baseline as only he can, sliding through the red clay he rules, Rafael Nadal stretched to somehow dig the ball out of a corner and fling it back over the net—once, twice, three times—during a 14-stroke exchange that ended when Robin Soderling sailed a shot long.

The French Open final was all of seven points old, and the message was unmistakable: Nadal's knees are fine now, which means he is an entirely different player from the one Soderling stunned at Roland Garros in 2009. That was the first loss of Nadal's career at this tournament, and it remains the only one.

His body sound, his mind at ease, Nadal played his unique brand of relentless, perpetual-motion tennis to handily beat the No. 5-seeded Soderling of Sweden 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 Sunday. Nadal won his fifth French Open championship, his seventh Grand Slam title overall, and earned a return to No. 1.

AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal holds the cup after defeating Sweden's Robin Soderling during a men's finals match for the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 6, 2010.

"I lost last year because I was not well-prepared, and I had very low morale last year, as well," said Nadal, who will supplant Roger Federer atop the rankings Monday.

"But this time, I'm back," said Nadal, who covered his face with a red towel and sobbed at match's end. "I'm back—and I win."

Yes, Nadal most definitely is back, and he is as good as—or perhaps even better than—ever.

"He has more or less one game," Soderling said, "but he does it so well."

Nadal is 38-1 over his career at Roland Garros and, three days after his 24th birthday, stands just one French Open title shy of Bjorn Borg's record of six. For the second time in three years, Nadal won the tournament without losing a set.

As former No. 1 Andy Roddick posted on Twitter: "rafa nadal best ever on clay.... period."

Nadal's uncle, Toni, who has coached the Spaniard since he was 4, called Sunday's performance "one of the best matches I've ever seen Rafael play."

Put simply, Nadal was far superior in every aspect, from start to finish, in improving to 38-4 with four titles this sea-

See NADAL on Page 26

Rabauliman sweeps Juniors MVP awards

Rabauliman

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Patriots ace pitcher Jeremy Rabauliman swept the championship and regular season most valuable player awards of the Junior Division of the 2010 Saipan Little League.

Rabauliman was selected MVP of the finals by his team after pitching a two-hitter with nine strikeouts in the Patriots' five-inning 10-0 mercy rule finals victory against the Ol'Aces last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

As if the finals MVP was not enough, Rabauliman also won the regular season MVP award after dominating both offensive and pitching categories for the year.

Rabauliman first busted four homeruns and five triples to receive both Homerun King and Triples Champion honors. He also scored a league-leading 32 runs and maintained an impressive 0.69 earned run average to win the Most Runs and ERA awards.

"I really appreciate all the awards, but I could not have done it without my teammates. I really want to send all of them a great deal of thanks," said Rabauliman after the awards ceremony held immediately after the finale.

See RABAULIMAN on Page 26

Leina, Korean tame greens at HANMI golf tilt

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Championship flight winner Gi-Seoung Kim, left, and Ladies champion Leina Kim pose with their prize during the awards ceremony for the 9th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament last Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI female golfer Leina Kim owned the distinction of being one of the only two participants who scored under par in the 9th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament played last Saturday on the west course of the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

Kim fired a 1-under par 71 at the Kagman facility en route to winning the Ladies flight, which had a the double-peoria format. The Marianas Baptist Academy graduate was on target on the front nine, nailing a 2-under par 34 and then closed out her game with a 1-over par 37 on the back. She owned a zero handicap, thus still ended up with a net 71.

Ladies flight runner-up and 8.4-handicapper Noriko Togawa netted a 71.60, while third placer and junior golfer Jeong Yoon Kim logged a net 73.60, built on a 40 on the front and even par 36 on the back.

Beating Leina Kim's gross score and posting the day's best was Gi-Seoung Kim, who carded a 2-under par 70 to rule the centerpiece Championship Flight. Gi-Seoung Kim recorded a 3-under par 33 in his first nine holes before struggling a bit in the last nine with a 1-over par 37.

The Korean golfer defeated 15 other players entered in the Championship flight. Jason Yi finished second with his even par 72, while Geon-Ju Lee saved third place with his 1-over par 73. The CNMI's Jess Wabol finished fourth with a 2-over par 74, while Jong-Won Lee completed the Top 5 after drilling a 3-over par 75.

In the A flight, Tim Goodwin bested 23 other players, including hole-in-one winner Ralph Yumul. Goodwin went 2-over par 74 for a one-shot lead over junior golfer Luis Byun (75). Asterio Tawanpiy, who carded a 5-over par 77, beat two other players in the tiebreak for third.

The B flight drew the most

See LEINA on Page 26

Delegates contribution to Micro Games down to $426

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Each athlete or official going to the 7th Micronesian Games will only have to shell out $426 from their pocket to make it to the event in Palau this August.

Every delegate saved $274 from the required payment after the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation re-appropriated $60,000 to cover part of the Team CNMI's expenses in the Micro Games. The total cost of the estimated 124 CNMI delegates to the quadrennial event is $132,060. The amount covers airfare, per diem ($30 a day), parade uniforms, departure tax, and miscellaneous expenses or the estimated cost for each delegate is over $1,000.

Before the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation answered athletes' call for financial assistance, NMASA had initially required each athlete/official to pay $700 in four installments. NMASA will then shoulder $250 of the total cost per athlete/official.

"Now, with the generous donation from the Saipan and Northern Is-

See DELEGATES on Page 26

White